Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 36 | WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www. saipan tribune.com

134 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution be placed on the ballot in 2011?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Test Vote

An $838 billion economic stimulus bill backed by the White House survived a key test vote in the Senate.

NATION...Page 14

Brown Assault

Reports have surfaced that pop superstar Rihanna was the woman who accused Chris Brown of assault.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

CNMI to host 5th Micronesian Youth Summit. **PAGE 3**

Explore galaxies with large telescopes at Palms. **PAGE 6**

Budget bill vetoed anew

Fitial says bill's passage will result in payless paydays, govt shutdown

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As expected, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed anew yesterday the proposed Fiscal Year 2009 budget, citing a number of concerns that he said were "overlooked" by the Legislature and could result in payless paydays and the total shutdown of government operations.

Fitial

> 'There are difficulties in this legislation that cannot be overlooked. ...Employees will have payless paydays or departments must begin laying off employees to operate until the end of fiscal year.'
>
> —Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

In his veto message to legislative leaders, he said the Legislature failed to address how the same number of employees and the same programs and operations will continue at the same level with the reduced resources.

Lawmakers revised the budgetary resources from $156 to $148 million after the Finance Department reported a drop of

See BUDGET on Page 4

ENVIRONMENTAL RETREAT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in the Micronesians in Island Conservation Retreat visit the Enpein Marine Protected Area bamboo raft in Pohnpei. The raft was funded by the Micronesia Pacific Environment Fund Global Environment Fund's small grants program. Environmental leaders from across the region participated in the 11th MIC retreat at the former Pohnpei Agricultual & Trade School in the Madolenihmw municipality of Pohnpei from Jan. 26 to 30.

DPS rules Matubis committed suicide

Espinola confirms identity of remains, determines hanging as cause of death

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has concluded that the remains found in Marpi last month were indeed those of the missing Filipino surveyor, Alex Manga Matubis, and that he had killed himself.

DPS acting public information officer Jason T. Tarkong said yesterday the police made the findings based on the results of the forensic examination as well as evidence gathered at the scene and interviews.

Tarkong said Guam's forensic pathologist, Dr. Aurelio Espinola, conducted his exami-

See DPS on Page 4

Minority split on budget override

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Allies of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial in the House of Representatives were split yesterday on whether or not to support an override of the budget veto sent by the administration.

Some members of the minority bloc expressed their opposition to the austerity measures being proposed by the governor, some conditionally supported the override, while a few said they are "undecided" as of press time.

Rep. Raymond Palacios indicated his willingness to vote "yes" on the override if the proposed austerity measures being proposed by Fitial do not exempt low-income earners, whom he said would suffer the most "impact."

See MINORITY on Page 4

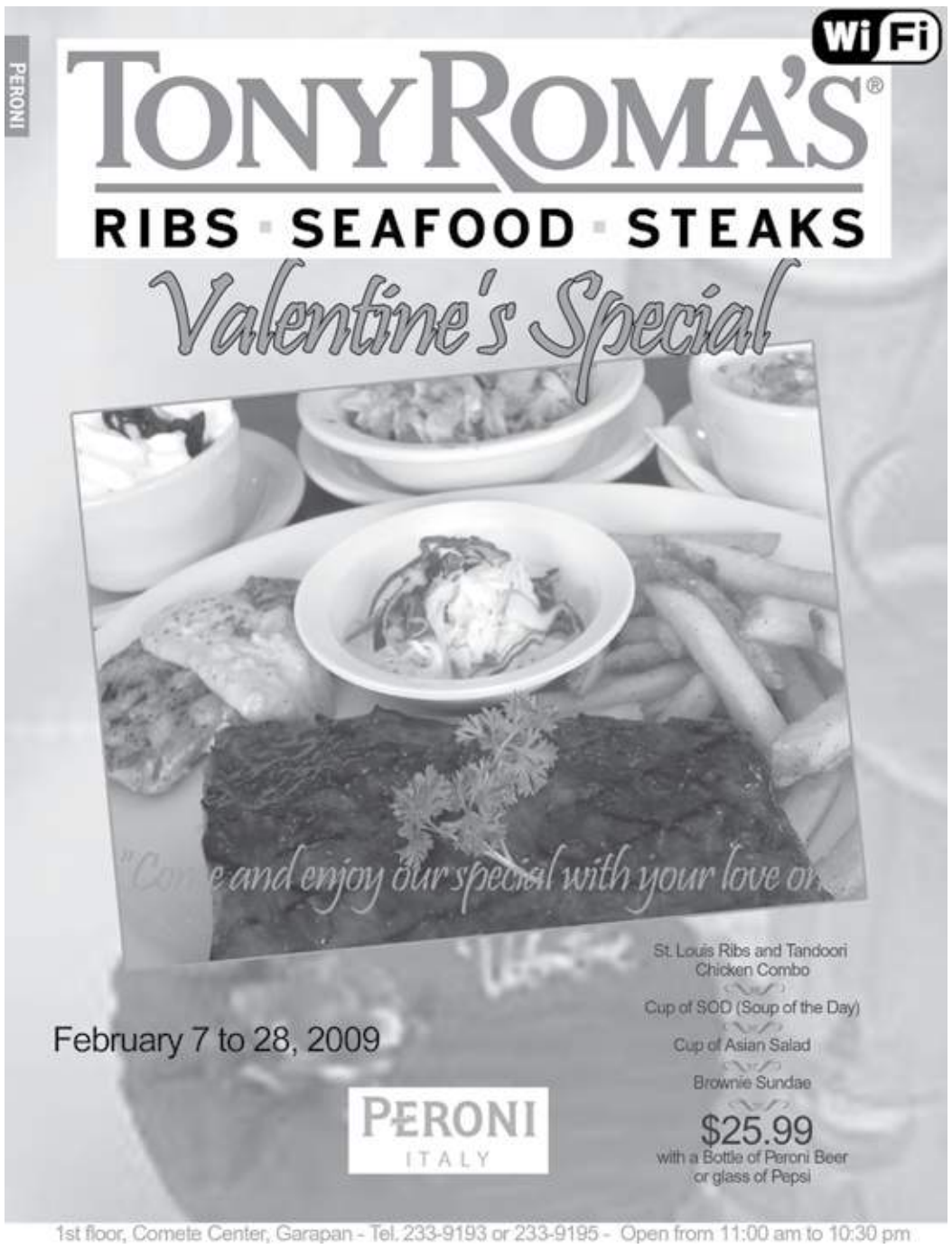
NWA asked to reconsider flight cuts

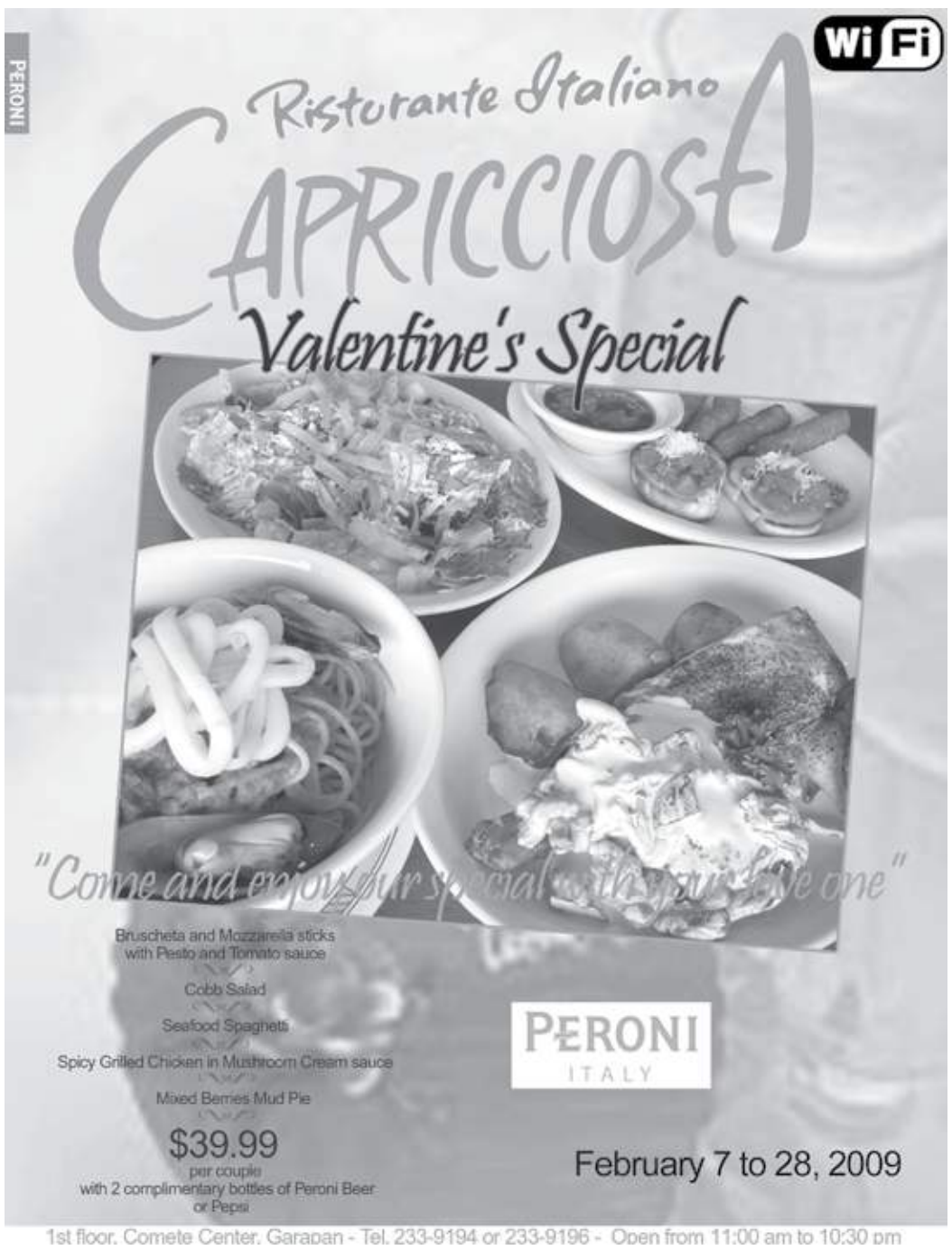
By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has asked Delta Airlines/Northwest Airlines to reconsider its decision to reduce air services to the CNMI, saying the move threatens to jeopardize the Commonwealth's primary tourism market, Japan.

The governor, in a letter to Delta Airlines executive vice president Glen W. Hauenstein, said the Commonwealth enjoys a long-standing relationship with Northwest Airlines Japan—ties that have created a

See NWA on Page 4


PERONI
Wi Fi
TONY ROMA'S
RIBS · SEAFOOD · STEAKS
Valentine's Special
"Come and enjoy our special with your love on
St. Louis Ribs and Tandoori Chicken Combo
Cup of SOD (Soup of the Day)
Cup of Asian Salad
Brownie Sundae
$25.99
with a Bottle of Peroni Beer or glass of Pepsi
February 7 to 28, 2009
PERONI ITALY
1st floor, Comete Center, Garapan - Tel. 233-9193 or 233-9195 - Open from 11:00 am to 10:30 pm


PERONI
Wi Fi
Risturante Italiano
CAPRICCIOSA
Valentine's Special
"Come and enjoy our special with your love one"
Bruschetta and Mozzarella sticks with Pesto and Tomato sauce
Cobb Salad
Seafood Spaghetti
Spicy Grilled Chicken in Mushroom Cream sauce
Mixed Berries Mud Pie
$39.99
per couple
with 2 complimentary bottles of Peroni Beer or Pepsi
February 7 to 28, 2009
PERONI ITALY
1st floor, Comete Center, Garapan - Tel. 233-9194 or 233-9196 - Open from 11:00 am to 10:30 pm

Local

Tinian's Hot Pepper Fest is also a Valentine's treat

As Valentine's Day and its traditional chocolates draw near, history reminds us that the Aztecs were the first to serve chocolate as a drink, mixing it with hot chili pepper to make a special beverage. This Valentine's Day, the island community of Tinian provides the perfect treat as it serves up its own hot pepper specialties during the annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival.

The festival, slated for Feb. 14-15, 2009, is named in honor of *donni sali*, a small but potent hot pepper that is indigenous to the island.

"The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival is going to be the perfect Valentine's getaway, whether with friends, family, or that special someone," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "Whether it's island recipes seasoned with native *donni sali* or other activities, the island of Tinian offers a buffet of cultural, scenic, and entertainment choices."

With the theme *"Pika! Pika! Pika!"* (or "Hot! Hot! Hot!" in indigenous Chamorro), the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be celebrated at Tachogna Beach. Activities include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment, including cultural dances, standup comedy, and Hapi the clown. The festival will also feature *umang* (hermit crab) races, a hot pepper eating contest, and numerous sports activities, including beach volleyball and dragon boat races.

MVA

In this file photo, brave competitors get ready for the donni sali (hot pepper) eating contest as part of the festivities at the 2008 Tinian Hot Pepper Festival. This year's festival will be held Feb. 14-15, 2009.

Away from the festival grounds, visitors can explore white sand beaches, stunning cliff lines, ancient Chamorro limestone pillars called Taga stones, relics from the Japanese era of the administration of the islands, and World War II ruins. World-class gaming is also available at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

Tinian is accessible within minutes of the main island of Saipan via airplane or ferry, or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam.

For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

Fitial receives plaque of appreciation

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Park Jun Soo, a former Korean Association president, presents Gov. Benigno R. Fitial with a plaque of appreciation from the Korean Association of Saipan. Fitial is also joined by other members of the Korean Association: Hojoon Joo, far left, Rhee Gyunggu, the current Korean Association president, and Lee, Hee Sang, far right.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial received a plaque of appreciation from the Saipan Korean Association Tuesday morning.

The plaque reads: "We would like to give our sincerest appreciation to you, who have put passion and truth into the CNMI as well as all of the communities. Especially, your love and interest in the Korean Society, as well as your support and contributions will be greatly remembered by the Korean Community. As stated, the Korean Community and the executives of the Korean Association of the CNMI would like to give this plaque as our love and thanks to you."

The plaque of appreciation was presented by president Park Jun Soo of the 31st Korean Association of Saipan.

"I am greatly honored to receive this plaque of appreciation from the Saipan Korean Association," said Fitial. "The members of the CNMI Korean community have made many great contributions to our islands for more than 30 years, and I am very grateful for the Korean community's appreciation of our islands." ***(PR)***

CNMI to host three-day 5th Micronesian Youth Summit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Micronesian Youth Services Inc. have decided to hold their fifth annual assembly on Saipan next month. This year's theme is "Strengthen Micronesian Community—One Youth at a Time."

Slated from March 30 to April 1, the three-day Micronesian Youth Summit is expected to bring hundreds of participants from Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia, which includes Yap, Kosrae, Phonpei, and Chuuk.

According to steering committee chair Frances Sablan, the event's first day is for the registration while the forum and workshop will take place in the next two days.

Sablan said the venue has yet to be finalized as of press time.

Saipan Tribune learned that this is the second time that Saipan will host the event.

Organized by the Micronesian Youth Services Network, the occasion is primarily designed for youth service providers or groups and nonprofit organizations that work on the development and progress of community youths.

Current issues faced by the youth will be the focus of this year's conference, Sablan said.

"There's a great need to discuss issues that primarily affect our youths and one important topic is to determine what's the proper and legal age for them to drink alcohol," she told Saipan Tribune.

Sablan admitted that, although some laws are in existence for the youths' welfare, she believes that more laws are needed to ensure youths are protected.

A pending legislation about the Juvenile Justice Act is also among the agenda to be discussed by participants.

Sablan said students and youths from selected schools will be invited to participate in the demonstrations.

Presentations of the island's indigenous songs and dances are also expected from invited youth groups.

"To better give our participants a better idea about what are the possible effective youth campaigns, we have asked for a Teen Talk presentation," Sablan said.

Teen Talk is a television show primarily created for teenagers. Segment topics focus on what's "in" at the moment. The show is organized by the Public School System.

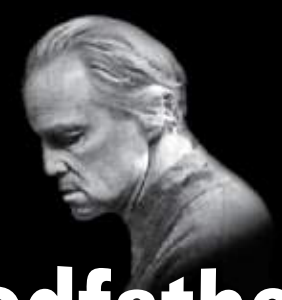
Sablan disclosed that the Criminal Justice Planning Agency's Youth Advisory Council is collaboratively working with the Micronesian Youth Services Inc. and had donated $10,000 for the event. The steering committee, she added, is also soliciting assistance from government agencies and the Governor's Office.

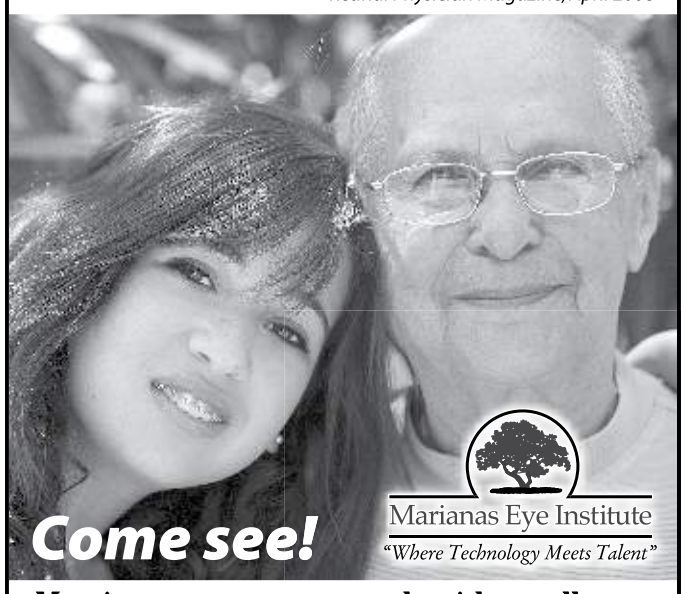
It is the event's objective to strengthen the ties and network of groups in the Micronesian region.

During the occasion, members will recognize businesses and individuals who constantly devote time and assistance to the event.

XEROX COPY
*B & W – 15¢ each
*COLOR – 75¢ each
RAINBOW COLOR • 233-5020
Email: rainbowcolor@pticom.com
*Condition apply. Inquiry within

X-RATED Valentines Day
NAUGHTY MEETS NICE


Godfather's Bar
WHERE EVERYBODY IS FAMILY
Saturday, Feb. 14th
Valentines Day Drink Specials:
X-Rated Mixes/Shots
■ X-RATED Flirtini
■ X-RATED On The Beach
■ X-RATED Foreplay
■ X-RATED Kiss & Tell Shot
2 (couple) for $6
Miller Draft Beer Mug
2 (couple) for $4
Miller Draft Beer Pitchers
2 (couple) for $10
Jerry & Elli
Performing Live!

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008

Come see!
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"
Meeting your eye care needs with excellence.
One-Hour Glasses • Contacts • Medicine, Surgery • Laser
Dr. Mark Robertson, OD
Magna Cum Laude
Dr. David Khorram, MD
"America's Top Ophthalmologists"
Walk-Ins Welcome
Yes! We accept Aetna, Staywell, Medicaid/Medicare, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Tricare, and more
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan, Across 13 Fishermen Monument • MarianasEye.com

Once in a Lifetime Experience
Holyland 2009 Tour
with Jordan & Egypt
Amman, Petra, Jordan; Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Israel; Dead Sea, Cairo, Mt. Sinai, Egypt
MARCH 7-21, 2009
$2,885.00
Twin sharing/per person
HURRY UP! LIMITED SLOT AVAILABLE.
Includes
■ Roundtrip Economy Class airfare Manila-Dubai-Amman and Cairo-Dubai-Manila via Emirates.
■ Breakfast and dinners plus 1 lunch
■ All hotel accomodations at 3-4 star hotels
■ All tours mentioned with English Speaking guides
■ Transfer from airport to hotel and vice versa
■ Private motorcoach with Tour Manager and Local Guide.
Some restrictions apply.
For more information please call your travel agents, Lisa and Jie at (670) 235-3708 to 10 or e-mail us at customerservice@centurytravelagency.com
www.centurytravelagency.com
Century Travel AGENCY, INC.
A TanHoldings Company
Going the Extra Mile to Serve You!
Ground Floor CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, PMB 193 Box 10000 PPP, Saipan MP 96950

Immigration seeks deportation of 2 ex-convicts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Division of Immigration has sought the deportation of two men who have numerous criminal convictions.

Following the filing of deportation cases, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman ordered Alfred Obak and Prisco Ongrung, both Palauans, to appear in court on Feb. 26 an explain why they should not be deported from the CNMI.

Immigration investigator Nicolas T. Reyes stated in his report that last Jan. 8 he obtained information that Obak has been convicted of five misdemeanor cases.

Reyes cited a Superior Court judgment issued in August 2005, where Obak pleaded guilty to assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The investigator said another court order issued in July 2008 convicted Obak of criminal trespass, theft, and misdemeanor criminal trespass.

Obak was among a group of people who burglarized Little Angels Daycare in Koblerville in April 2007. Copper wires were stolen from the building.

Obak also beat up a man for greeting him and his friend "Merry Christmas" on Dec. 25, 2004, at the Upper Miha housing in Garapan.

Obak reportedly has an outstanding arrest warrant in Palau and has numerous prior convictions, mostly for burglary charges in that country.

With respect to Ongrung, Reyes said that last Jan. 18 he learned from an Immigration supervisor that Ongrung has been convicted of four misdemeanors and one felony.

Reyes said that in 2007 Ongrung pleaded guilty to assault on a federal officer and was subsequently sentenced in April 2008 to a total of 90 days in prison.

Reyes said Ongrung was convicted in four traffic cases in 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2007.

Ongrung assaulted a park ranger at the Outer Cove Marina area in September 2007.

BUDGET

From Page 1

$8.6 million in projected revenues in FY 2009.

Fitial said that based on the bill, every departments' personnel budget is reduced by 5 percent while the number of employees and their salaries remain intact.

"There are difficulties in this legislation that cannot be overlooked," he told Speaker Arnold Palacios and Senate President Pete Reyes.

Accepting what the Legislature proposed, Fitial said, would result in the shutting down of the entire government because it will have no resources to pay its employees.

"Employees will have payless paydays or departments must begin laying off employees to operate until the end of fiscal year," the governor said.

As none of these options are desirable, he said it is imperative that the House and Senate pass legislation implementing austerity measures.

Unconstitutional

Besides the budgetary allocation, the governor believes that other provisions and conditions in the bill calls for disapproval.

He cited as unconstitutional the wish of lawmakers to give House and Senate presiding officers the hiring authority for the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the government. He emphasized the clear constitutional mandate that separates the powers between each of the three entities.

"It is unconstitutional, therefore, to subject the Judicial and Executive branches to legislative authority where hiring practices are concerned," he said.

A provision in the proposed bill also requires that the Labor secretary prepare and present a report to the Legislature no later than May 1, 2009, addressing various labor matters not relevant to the budgetary process or allocation.

Fitial said matters relating to the effects of the federalization law and local law, job placements of residents, and other foreign workers' concerns have no bearing in the appropriations for the Labor Department.

The Legislature's wish to grant conditions on some federal grants was also cited by the governor as a "contravention" to what was agreed upon with the granting agency.

Fitial said Section 723 of the bill incorrectly distributes Compact Impact funds to seven grantee departments in opposition to conditions for the grant.

"Reprogramming of the said funds requires resubmission of figures to the grantor and approval thereby. The Legislature acted in contravention to the grant conditions by redistributing the amounts as shown in the measure," the governor said.

'Impact cannot be ignored'

The governor said the recent decision of Northwest Airlines to terminate its Osaka-Saipan direct flights is a factor that cannot be ignored in identifying available resources for the CNMI government.

"The recent developments in the airline industry force the government to prepare for further reduction in available resources," he said.

Northwest Airlines recently announced that it will soon stop the Narita-Saipan nightly flights and that it will reduce its daytime flight by 116 seats.

"This loss comes after Northwest's previous announcement that it will terminate the Osaka direct flights. The loss of the Narita nightly flights and the reduction of the Narita daytime seats translate to a loss of 43,780 seats for the remainder of the FY 2009 upon its implementation," the governor noted.

He said total projected negative economic impact to the CNMI is $88.9 million.

"Such significant impact cannot be ignored in addressing the available resources and the ability of the government to continue serving the Commonwealth," Fitial said, urging the Legislature to pass a bill to implement the necessary austerity measures to continue delivering essential services.

MINORITY

From Page 1

"Until the proposed austerity measures [by the governor] will exempt low-income earners, I will not support it," he told Saipan Tribune, affirming the same stance he had since the first drafting of the budget.

This is the second time House members will attempt to override the governor's veto action on the budget after they failed to get the needed 14 votes the first time around.

Although Rep. Stanley Torres vocally announced his support to imposing austerity measures, he said his approval of the governor's wish still depends on "what type of cost-cutting" will be enforced.

"I support putting austerity measures to cut excessive spending [in the government]…but I need to find out what are these specific measures. If this will result [in] workforce reduction or layoff of employees, I don't think I will agree to that," he said.

Rep. Justo Quitugua said he will carefully weigh his decision whether to support or reject the override proposal.

Quitugua does not support the reinstatement of austerity Fridays in government because he believes that this wasn't effective in the past. Austerity Fridays mean the shutdown of government operations every alternating Friday.

"I am against this type of austerity measure because we have tried it in the past and it didn't work. So what's the use of re-imposing the same type of cost-cutting measure, which I deem unfairly implemented?" Quitugua said.

Quitugua believes there are other ways to effectively bring down the government's expenditures.

"We can trim the budget spending by allowing employees to avail of early retirement and freeze hiring 'replacements' for those positions," the lawmaker said, adding that austerity Fridays in FY 2007 brought only more "uncertainties" than good.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said he will completely support the "override" proposal because he believes the governor's rejection of the budget bill is only part of his "games." He said the administration from the beginning has been inconsistent in submitting "factual figures" to the Legislature.

"For me it's more important to have a budgetary guideline in place…than debate on these austerity measures. They've ran out of excuses now…" he said.

Although Tinian Rep. Edwin Aldan agrees to reduced work hours in government offices, he emphasized the need to "pass a new budget." He noted the serious impact of not having a budget for Tinian operation.

However, Aldan has yet to decide whether he will vote for or against the override.

"I am going to sit down with the minority leadership and consult with the members…before I make my decision. We need to carefully look at the veto message and from there, the minority will plan," he said.

The minority bloc in the House is headed by Rep. Oscar Babauta, who was unavailable for comments yesterday.

DPS

From Page 1

nation on the skeletal remains at the Commonwealth Health Center's morgue Friday night.

Tarkong said Espinola was able to identify several characteristics that positively identified the remains as that of the missing Matubis.

Espinola based the information on Matubis' dental records and certain bones that matched the age, height, and gender of the surveyor, Tarkong said.

"Dr. Espinola classified the cause of death as asphyxiation due to hanging. Matubis' death was ruled as a suicide," Tarkong said.

Matubis' employer, Candido Castro, had reported him missing since July 30, 2008.

Last Aug. 19, investigators found Matubis' service pickup abandoned near the Kalabera Cave.

The farm where his remains were found is located about a 10-minute drive west of Kalabera Cave, according to DPS.

Matubis and his co-worker had conducted a survey at the Kalabera Cave area a few weeks before he was reported missing.

Before Espinola's examination, investigators initially ruled the remains to be "presumptive positive" as the missing Matubis based on the items recovered from the remains—a driver's license and a wedding ring.

The CNMI driver's license was issued to Matubis, while the ring was identified by Matubis' brother, Arnold, as his brother's wedding ring.

Alex Paga, a surveyor-helper of Matubis since 1990, told *Saipan Tribune* earlier that he and Matubis conducted a survey project at Kalabera Cave area for more than a week last year.

Paga said the survey was made shortly after Matubis arrived from a vacation in the Philippines in June 2008.

Paga also confirmed earlier reports that Matubis was "strangely silent" when he arrived back on Saipan from his vacation.

He said Matubis used to be jolly after coming from a vacation.

Paga described his friend as very religious and a loving and faithful husband.

A few days before he was reported missing, Matubis reportedly sent money to his wife in the Philippines. The couple have two children. The wife earlier expressed belief that he did not commit suicide because they didn't have any serious problems.

NWA

From Page 1

win-win situation for both the company, the people, and the hundreds of Japanese travelers who visit the islands yearly.

"The anticipated reductions are of tremendous concern here in the Marianas as they jeopardize our relationship and the balance of the market, as Northwest Airlines is responsible for 100 percent of our lift from the key markets of Tokyo and Nagoya and until just two months ago, 100 percent of the lift from Osaka market," said Fitial.

Although he said he can appreciate the demands of the current economic crisis that has hit the CNMI hard, Fitial also expressed wonder at the true reason behind the airline's decision.

"The recent reduction in air service to the CNMI by Delta… only compounds our economic predicament. …While I understand we are all under pressure to return a profit, I am at a loss as to why Delta would reduce capacity at such a significant rate, especially when the CNMI has shared the risk in ensuring that Northwest Airlines achieves its revenue targets," Fitial said.

He pointed out that industry data indicates that the Narita to Saipan morning flight is performing well, both in terms of load factors and yields, and so the reduction in capacity at Narita confounds the CNMI.

Fitial believes that the strength of the Japanese yen also provides additional positive opportunity from a currency and overseas demand standpoint.

Delta recently merged operations with Northwest. In the process, Delta had announced its commitment to expansion of macro level service and improved services.

"However, the CNMI seems to be receiving the exact opposite of that commitment," Fitial said.

Given the longstanding relationship with Northwest, Fitial is requesting a reconsideration of the changes announced for the summer schedule.

"I hope we can find some mutually agreeable solution. If not, I will still value our relationship with NW…but I will need to direct our visitors authority to be more aggressive in its negotiations with other airlines," the governor told the Delta executive.

Fitial said that move to negotiate with other airlines will impact Delta's bottom line.

The governor said he wants the CNMI to be more than a two-carrier market out of the key Narita and Nagoya gateways.

"But the reality is…as of now, that's not the case," he added.

'Direct, indirect economic impact from lost seats'

In a presentation to members of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism yesterday, the Marianas Visitors Authority disclosed that the CNMI would lose 320,804 seats this fiscal year with the reduction of air seats from the Japan market.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio said the downsizing of the Northwest Airlines aircraft from A330 to B757 will result in a total loss of 116 seats. The A330 aircraft has a 298-seat capacity, while the B757 configuration only has 182 seats.

Northwest Airlines has four daytime flights from Japan—two from Narita and one each from Osaka and Nagoya.

Asiana Airlines' 177-seater planes are also expected to bring only 12,744 in the 72 days of its scheduled flights to the CNMI.

MVA said that, based on a load factor of 75 percent, the economic impact of the loss will translate to a $108.7 million loss annually in direct economic impact, while indirect economic impact to the CNMI is at $356 million.

Election commissioners to discuss new director

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Election Commission are scheduled to meet on Thursday this week to talk about the hiring of a new executive director.

The new executive director would fill the vacant position left by Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan following his resignation last year to run for CNMI Delegate to the U.S. Congress.

Sablan, who won the seat, will arrive within the week from Washington, D.C., according to Rotary Club president Ben Babauta, but it is not related to Thursday's meeting.

Acting executive director Julita A. Villagomez said yesterday that the commissioners would be discussing the issue.

"Whether the commissioners have already somebody in mind or if there are already applicants for the position will be known in that meeting," Villagomez said.

The CEC has five commissioners from Saipan, including Frances M. Sablan, chairwoman; Elizabeth Dlg. Aldan, Melvin B. Sablan, Jose L. Itibus, and Jesus I. Sablan; and two each from Rota and Tinian.

However, there is one vacant slot each for Rota and Tinian.

The other commissioners are Miranda V. Manglona for Rota and Jose P. Kiyoshi for Tinian.

Meanwhile, interested candidates for the 2009 General Election on Nov. 7 can now secure a pamphlet at the Election Commission for guidelines and other important information.

Several candidates have already unofficially announced their bid for governor, lieutenant governor, a seat in the Legislature and for mayor but the first day for submission of nominating petitions and candidacy documents is set on July 10.

The last day of submission is on Aug. 10.

The last day for voter registration is on Sept. 18.

Elliot fails to show up in court—again

As expected, Eria Elliot did not show up in court—again—for his scheduled hearing yesterday morning.

Only chief prosecutor Kevin Lynch and Elliot's counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, appeared in the Superior Court for the status conference.

This prompted associate judge David A. Wiseman to issue another bench warrant against the 28-year-old Elliot.

Wiseman ordered Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela to arrest Elliot and bring to court immediately.

The judge imposed a $1,000 cash bail.

Last Thursday, Wiseman issued a bench warrant against Elliot for non-appearance at his hearing.

The defendant was arrested and brought to court last Friday. Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo released him and ordered him to return for the status conference supposedly for yesterday.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona had issued at least two bench warrants against Elliot for non-appearance.

Elliot has four pending criminal cases, mostly for allegedly assaulting and harassing people.

The defendant is regularly seen roaming the island's streets and entering establishments to ask for food and money from passersby, customers, and tourists.

He has been admitted several times to the Commonwealth Health Center for acute psychosis related to alcohol and marijuana abuse.

A psychiatrist in 2006 found Elliot to be suffering from schizophrenia and has dilatory hallucinations. The psychiatrist, however, determined that he was competent to stand trial.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Elliot is not a Palauan. His father is a Caucasian who used to work at the Superior Court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Newborn babies to get Rotary blankets

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Veronica Servidad, CHC Supervisor of OB/GYNE and Nursery, wears one of the blankets donated by the Rotary Club of Saipan. Looking on is Maggie Wonenberg, president of CHC Volunteers Association, left, and Rotary Club president Ben Babauta, right.

The next 300 babies to be born at the Commonwealth Health Center will be getting blankets that have a logo of the Rotary Club of Saipan on them.

The donation is part of Rotary's outreach program.

About 100 babies are born in each month in the CNMI, said Maggie Wonenberg, president of the CHC Volunteers Association.

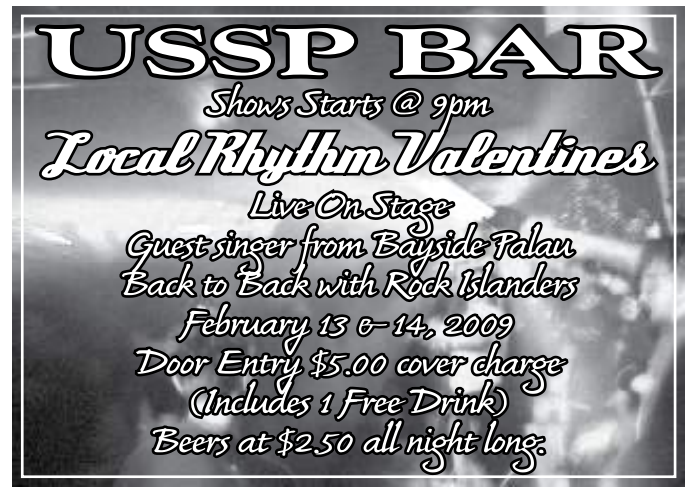
Wonenberg, accompanied by Veronica Servidad, supervisor of the OB/Gyne and Nursery sections at CHC, and volunteer Sylvia Haywood, received the baby blankets from Rotary president Ben Babauta during the club's regular meeting yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Wonenberg said the blankets would introduce the new babies to the Rotary Club.

Members of a Rotary group from Japan also showed up at the meeting yesterday.

Tetsuo Yamagishi, president of the Kishiwada North Rotary Club, talked about their group's campaign to eradicate AIDS and solicited help from Saipan Rotarians to do their share.

He also hopes that this visit will establish stronger friendship and deepen relationship between the two sister groups and invited the local club to visit them in Japan. ***(Nazario Rodriguez)***


USSP BAR
Shows Starts @ 9pm
Local Rhythm Valentines
Live On Stage
Guest singer from Bayside Palau
Back to Back with Rock Islanders
February 13 & 14, 2009
Door Entry $5.00 cover charge
(Includes 1 Free Drink)
Beers at $2.50 all night long.

Protect your eyes
in high style
Tag Heuer
Fendi
Let our certified opticians help you
select the perfect frame to fit you
and your lifestyle.
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
235-2030 • Located on Beach Road next to Megabyte
We accept most insurance plans and all major credit cards
SERVICES OFFERED:
• Thorough examinations for eye disease • Treatment for infections and injuries
• Glaucoma treatment • Diabetic eye care • Infant/children eye exams

Explore galaxies with large telescopes at Palms Resort

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

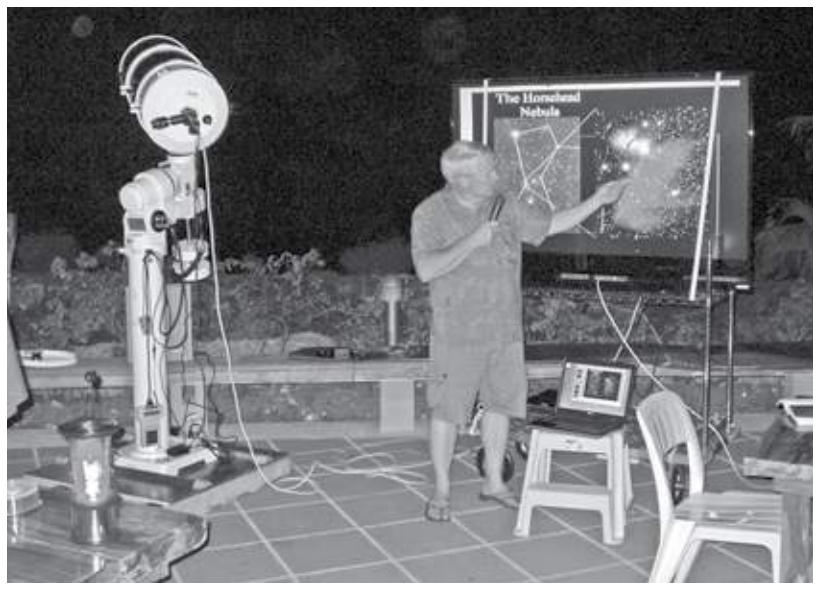
Palms Resort Saipan has acquired six sophisticated telescopes to give the local community an opportunity to explore the stars and galaxy.

Russel Snow, president of United Micronesia Development Association, which owns the hotel, said it is his profound interest in astronomy that prompted him to bring in the new equipment, made by Japan's Vixen.

He said Saipan should be thankful for its "clear dark sky" because it is a wonderful natural resource for stargazers.

Snow said the telescopes are of research quality, with top-of-the-line optical components.

Snow personally invited Dr. J. Ward Moody, an astronomy professor at Brigham Young University, to conduct presentations on the telescopes and share his knowledge about the dark skies of Saipan.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Astronomer Dr. J. Ward Moody explains the objects in the dark skies of Saipan during a presentation at Palms Resort Friday night.

Moody has been doing the presentations since Feb. 2. He should have finished it last Feb. 8 but Palms decided to let him stay until the end of this month.

The presentations are free. The next one will be on Feb. 11 and 13. The public may call the hotel for reservations.

Moody said all the presentations were full and the people were excited about it.

"Majority are amazed and they want this equipment to stay," said Moody, who was just named Palms Resort's resident astronomer.

"Wow is the common word that all the people who have come to enjoy the fun have said," Snow said.

Snow has decided to give the local community free use of the equipment during scheduled viewing, depending on the condition of the night sky.

"There will be dinner programs where they can pay a reasonable price for their food but the telescopes are free to use," said Snow.

With the new telescopes, Moody said one could see objects that are several billions light years away from Earth.

On Friday, those who attended were able to peep at the moon and the two most visible planets, Venus and Saturn.

Moody also talked about constellations and the tales and symbols that ancient historians have used to describe the night sky.

He also talked about the brightest stars, which are Sirius and Canopus, and other amazing spots in the horizon.

The astronomer said the dark skies of Saipan is conducive to astronomy because one can watch the stars in fine detail, which you don't see anywhere else.

"We have here a sky that is free from light pollution or if there is, it is very minimal," he said.

Also present at Friday's presentation was Pam Eastlick of the Planetarium in Guam. Eastlick runs a weekly astronomy column at *Pacific Daily News*.

Snow and Moody have already met with the Boy Scout and Cub Scout in the CNMI and at the end of the month, they will award the scouts with Astronomy merit badges.

Palms is also supporting Grace Christian Academy students in a trip to Honolulu to visit the Monekea Observatory and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in the U.S. mainland.

Atalig appeals Govendo's prison order

Antonio M. Atalig has appealed to the CNMI Supreme Court the order issued by Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo sending him and fellow lawyer Reynaldo O. Yana back to jail for refusing to return the $1.3 million fee the two received from the Angel Malite estate.

Atalig, through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie, filed in the Superior Court a notice for his appeal to the Supreme Court. No arguments were included in Atalig's notice.

Govendo ordered the continued detention of Yana and Atalig on Jan. 28 after denying them attorneys' fees. Govendo ruled that the two owed the Malite estate $1.3 million.

In a written order, Govendo said Atalig is to be imprisoned until he returns attorneys' fees in the amount of $500,000, while Yana is to be jailed until he returns $200,000.

"Mr. Atalig and Mr. Yana are not to be released from custody until they have tendered the amount," Govendo said.

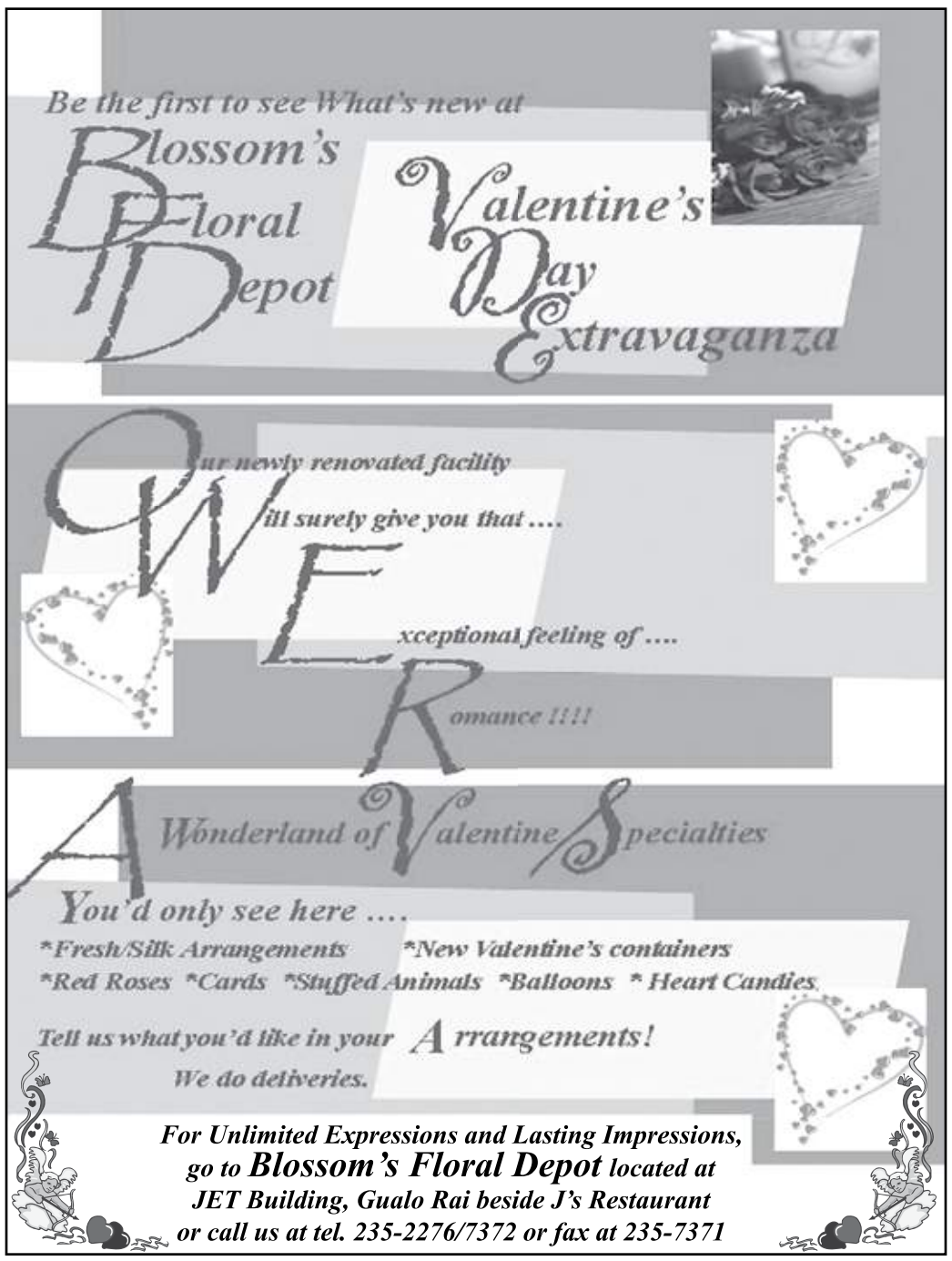
After having paid the amounts as ordered, Govendo said that Atalig and Yana shall then repay the remainder owed, until the full amount of $1,288,500 has been repaid.

Atalig and Yana have been in jail since March 2008 after Govendo found them in civil contempt for failing to return the $1.3 million. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

HAPPY 2ND BIRTHDAY JP!

Happy birthday greetings go out to JP, who is celebrating his second birthday today, Feb. 11, 2009. You are very special to us, and you deserve the best; we wish you a wonderful lifefilled with love and happiness. May the blessings of our Lord continue to shower you good health, wisdom and knowledge. We love you son! Love, Daddy Jhey and Mommy Fran.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO


Be the first to see What's new at
Blossom's Floral Depot
Valentine's Day Extravaganza
Our newly renovated facility
will surely give you that ....
OVER
xceptional feeling of ....
Romance !!!!
A Wonderland of Valentine Specialties
You'd only see here ....
*Fresh/Silk Arrangements
*New Valentine's containers
*Red Roses *Cards *Stuffed Animals *Balloons * Heart Candies
Tell us what you'd like in your Arrangements!
We do deliveries.
For Unlimited Expressions and Lasting Impressions,
go to Blossom's Floral Depot located at
JET Building, Gualo Rai beside J's Restaurant
or call us at tel. 235-2276/7372 or fax at 235-7371

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6 - 10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Announcement No: **PSS-072-2007** Application & Employment Type: **Non-Certified**
(Amendment/Re-Announcement III)
Position Title: **Procurement & Supply Officer**
Pay Level/Step: **35 / 01-12** Per Annum Salary: **$28,807.51 - $49,266.21**
Opening Date: **February 10, 2009** Closing Date: **February 25, 2009**
Location: **PSS – Procurement & Supply Office, Administrative Services Division**

Benefits: Salary Commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays

Minimum Requirements: **Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Bachelor's degree and at least six (6) years of procurement and supply work experience or related work experience, Or Master's degree and four (4) years work experience.**

***Detailed job description with qualification requirements can be obtained at PSS Human Resources Office at the 3rd Retirement Building, Capitol Hill, or download it online www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources**

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN A DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION WITH QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT THE 3rd RETIREMENT BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO COMPLETE APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX0 MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, RETIREMENT BUILDING; THIRD FLOOR, P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, and TEL. #. (670) 237-3051, FAX # (670) 664-3707. ALSO VISIT http://www.pss.cnmi.mp/humanresources ON THE WORLDWIDE WEB.

NMI gets award as a top KNT package planner

The CNMI joined Spain as awardees during Kinki Nippon Tourist's worldwide meeting and recognition held Friday in Japan.

The two destinations were cited as the two top KNT Japan group package planners for succeeding in providing professional care to guest traveling abroad.

KNT's CNMI tour agency, Pacific Development Inc., was recognized for its effort in bringing together the community, the private sector, and government agencies (Marianas Visitors Authority and the municipality of Rota) in making the Rota charter flights a success.

PDI assistant general managers Gordon I. Marciano and Masanori Takahashi accepted the award from KNT president Yoshikawa Katsuhisa.

Marciano and Takahashi said they never thought PDI would be one of the recipients of such a recognition. The two said PDI has always been about ensuring the most successful and memorable tours for its KNT guest.

Marciano also extended PDI's appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of the Rota charter flights.

"The award wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for all that were involved. We dedicate this award to KNT group planners, the Cape Air team on Rota for handling the ground services, MVA, and most especially to the community of Rota. Biba Luta!" he said.

Every year, KNT schedules a regular worldwide meeting with its companies from abroad, from New York to Spain to the Pacific. More than 400 took part in last week's event.

During the meeting, plans and ideas are shared and it concludes with a ceremony where awards are presented to group planners that provide services beyond the call of duty.

The Rota charter flight are expected to bring in some 8,000 tourists to Rota in about a year. KNT has chartered Continental Airlines to bring in the Rota flights. Continental Airlines has been using its 155-seater Boeing 737 aircraft to service the island. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Pacific Development, Inc. assistant general managers Gordon I. Marciano, right, and Masanori Takahashi, center, shows the award from Kinki Nippon Tourist, while KNT president Yoshikawa Katsuhisa looks on.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Captain of ship stuck off Hawaii relieved of duty

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—The commanding officer of a $1 billion warship that ran aground along the coast of Honolulu has been relieved of duty, the Navy said Monday.

Rear Adm. Dixon R. Smith, commander of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, relieved Capt. John Carroll of his duties pending the results of an investigation into Thursday's incident. The Navy on Monday freed the vessel, which had been stuck for more than three days.

Carroll had taken command of the USS Port Royal in October. Capt. John T. Lauer III, who is currently assigned to the staff of Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, was temporarily assigned as the guided missile cruiser's commanding officer.

RELATED NEWS
USCG: No pollution threat at place of Navy ship grounding.
PAGE 8

The ship—one of the Navy's most advanced—ran aground when it was offloading sailors, contractors and shipyard personnel late Thursday. Efforts to refloat the vessel over the weekend were unsuccessful.

The Port Royal was extracted from a rock and sand shoal about 2am Monday.

OPA warns vs solicitations for gifts, gratuities

The Office of the Public Auditor is reminding the public that government officials and employees are not allowed to solicit gifts or gratuities.

In a notice issued yesterday, OPA highlighted 1CMC Section 8551 of the CNMI Government Ethics Code, which states that "a public official or public employee, or a member of the immediate family or a business associate of a public official or public employee, shall not solicit or accept anything of value, or the promise or offer of anything of value, from:

A person regulated by or providing goods or services to, the government entity that the public official or public employee serves;

A person who has offered, or expressed an intention to provide travel expenses, goods or services to any member of a government entity that the public official or public employee serves; or

A person who was regulated by, or provided goods and services to, the government entity that the public official or public employee serves when circumstances show that the thing of value was promised or offered to or received between the person and the government entity.

Those covered under this provision include:

■ Public official(s): any person holding any elected office of the Commonwealth or any appointed, non-employee member of the Commonwealth government, including members of boards, commissions, and task forces;

■ Public employee(s): any individual who is an appointed employee of the Commonwealth government, whether part-time or full-time;

■ Immediate family: a spouse, an un-emancipated child residing in the same household, or an individual claimed as a dependent; and

■ Business associate(s) of a public official or public employee.

As examples of prohibited actions, OPA cited the following examples:

■ A nonprofit organization, acting on behalf of a government entity, soliciting something of value from a business that is regulated by or does business with that entity.

■ Sponsorship of a government entity sports team by a business that is regulated by or does business with that entity.

For more information, or to report a possible violation, contact the OPA at (670) 322-6481/2, or by calling the OPA hotline at (670) 322-3936. ***(OPA)***

Tinian DPS sets seatbelt checkpoints

The Tinian Department of Public Safety would like to inform the public that the Traffic Section will be conducting a car seat and seatbelt checkpoints this weekend.

On Feb. 11, 2009, the first setup will be held on Broadway Road, next to the Tinian Youth Center. It will commence at 7am, last approximately 75 minutes and terminate at 8:15am. The second setup will be by Marpo Valley Road near the Hofschneider warehouse. The checkpoint will start at 4:30pm, last about 75 minutes and terminate at 5:45pm.

On Feb. 13, 2009, the first setup will be held across the baseball field. The checkpoint will start at 7am, last about 75 minutes at terminate at 8:15am. The second setup will be along Broadway Road by Star Plaza. It will start at 5pm, last about 75 minutes and terminate at 6:15pm.

On Feb. 14, 2009, the first setup will be by the former Tinian Center. It will start at 7am., last about 75 minutes and terminate at 8:15am. The second setup will be by the baseball field. The checkpoint will commence at 4pm, last about 75 minutes and terminate at 5:15pm.

All checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain. In addition to the checkpoints, officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions and laser activities. ***(DPS)***

USCG evacuates ill crew from cargo vessel

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Two U.S. Coast Guard air crews medically evacuated an ill crewmember from the deck of a cargo vessel 80 nautical miles east of Hilo to Honolulu last Wednesday.

The Coast Guard's Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC) here received a call from the master of the motor vessel *Luo Ba He* concerning a 57-year-old male crewmember suffering from severe abdominal pain.

The ill man was hoisted aboard an HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter and transported to an awaiting Coast Guard C-130 long range search plane from a position 80 nautical miles offshore to Hilo International Airport.

The patient was then flown to Air Station Barbers Point on Oahu and transported via City and County of Honolulu Emergency Medical Services ambulance to The Queen's Medical Center.

The HH-65 crew included a rescue swimmer who was deployed to the deck of the cargo vessel with a rescue basket and then hoisted back aboard with the patient. A Coast Guard physican's assistant tended to the patient on the C-130 flight from Hilo to Honolulu.

The patient was further stabilized by Honolulu EMS.

"This is a great example of the Coast Guard partnering with county resources to ensure this crewmember got medical care as quickly as possible," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Seth Haynes, a search and rescue controller in Honolulu. ***(USCG)***

USCG: No *pollution threat at place of* Navy ship grounding

HONOLULU—U.S. Coast Guard Pollution investigators determined yesterday morning there is no threat of marine pollution after a U.S. Navy ship was freed from a grounding site off Honolulu International Airport's reef runway.

The USS Port Royal ran aground a half mile off the runway Thursday and was pulled free early this morning by the Navy. A Coast Guard air crew aboard an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter was airborne for an investigation at sunrise.

Coast Guard pollution investigators aboard the HH-65 reported a sheen of approximately one mile by 100 yards wide. Pollution investigators on scene on Coast Guard vessels report the sheen is marine diesel, a very thin fuel which burns off quickly in sunlight.

The Coast Guard estimates the amount of fuel comprising the sheen is approximately seven to eight gallons. It's not clear yet if the fuel is from the Port Royal or from one of the nine other vessels used in the response.

There is no threat to the coastline or marine life from the sheen and a crew aboard the oil spill recovery vessel Clean Islands will remain on scene until the sheen burns away.

"We are confident the small sheen will burn away this morning," said Cdr. Kathleen Moore, the U.S. Coast Guard Alternate Captain of the Port and a senior officer responsible for oil spill response in the main Hawaiian Islands. ***(USCG)***

Foremost Crystal Clear earns bottled water certification

TUMON, Guam—Crystal Clear bottled water from Foremost Foods, Inc. isn't just the best-tasting water on Guam. Year after year, it has continued to receive national certification for its safety and quality too.

And 2008 was no different.

Foremost Foods, Inc., once again received certification from NSF International, an independent third-party agency, assuring Crystal Clear bottled water meets or exceeds applicable government standards.

Michigan-based NSF International checks for product quality, proper labeling, taste, and chemical make-up of products before it distinguishes it as meeting USFDA standards for safety and quality. The organization is backed by a team of 1,000 professionals dedicated to public health and safety operating in more than 85 countries around the world to support auditing, testing, training and standard setting.

"We have always stood behind our Foremost products, and our continued certification by NSF is just another confirmation that we can do that," said Ernest Mak, director of operations for Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Guam)/ Foremost Foods, Inc. "Because of our consistent renewal by NSF for Bottled Water Certification, consumers and retailers can be confident they are getting the best quality water on Guam."

Foremost Foods, Inc. has been a part of Guam's community for more than 50 years. The company, whose name was originally introduced in 1961, has packaged delicious products straight from the factory for island homes since 1950. Currently more than 90 products are "Packed With Local Pride." ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union
PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950

Frances A. Castro, Chairwoman — Jose I. Sablan, General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has scheduled a meeting for Friday, February 13, 2009 at 2:00 pm at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes January 2, 2009

II. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
- A. Collection Status
- B. Financial Report-Monthly
- C. Operational Matters

III. OLD BUSINESS-NONE
- A. 2009 Budget

IV. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Audit-OPA
- B. CDA Request
- C. SCU
- D. Loan Policy

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Chairperson

SPONSOR A STUDENT FROM THE NMTI

Local students attending the Northern Marianas Trades Institute are in need of funding to complete their trades skills. They are seeking a sponsor who will help them complete their studies.

The program works like this. You or your company adopts a student or several from our roster. We will introduce him to you. As his sponsor, he will report to you on his progress periodically.

If you know of someone that you wish to sponsor that is currently not in the school that will be acceptable also.

These students are learning skills for a lifetime. Come in and let's discuss how you can help. Also see our facilities and watch students in action. A miraculous change is taking place in them.

Call Vic, Rose or Tony at 235-6684 for more details.

Please help!
The future of Saipan in their hands and in yours!
Sponsor a student to learn a skill for a lifetime!!!

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 11, 1999

Talks between U.S., CNMI to start on Jan. 19

The Northern Marianas has accepted the proposal of Washington to hold the 902 consultations next week after almost a year of delay in resuming bilateral talks aimed at resolving differences in the handling of local and immigration laws. Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the CNMI 902 team, wrote to President Bill Clinton's top aide, Edward B. Cohen, agreeing to suggestions to begin the four-day informal discussions on January 19. Cohen is to arrive on Saipan on January 18.

MVA cautions feds on takeover bid

The Marianas Visitors Authority has cautioned the federal government against pushing for a takeover of labor and immigration laws of the Northern Marianas because it will severely hamper efforts to revive the half-a-billion-dollar tourism industry, which has been battered by the Asian financial crisis. Amid continued threats of a federal takeover, the tourism agency will continue its mandated task of promoting the CNMI as an ideal destination in the Pacific. "I will not allow that to bother us but the U.S. government will have to pay for the expected earnings in tourism if they continue to push for the takeover," according to Dave M. Sablan, board chairman.

February 11, 2000

Deficit down by $10M in FY 99

Drastic austerity measures by the government, including cut in overtime and professional services, resulted in a $10 million reduction in the worsening budget deficit, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. In a preliminary financial report submitted to the presiding officers of the Legislature covering Fiscal Year 1999, the governor said cumulative budget deficit declined $70.7 million from the record $80.6 million posted in FY 98. Government finance officials are projecting a further decline in the deficit in Fiscal Year 2000 which they said could be obtained through tighter fiscal discipline and economic revitalization efforts.

Teno asks Clinton to halt federal takeover plan

Disputing allegations of failed labor and immigration reforms in the CNMI, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has appealed to President Clinton against pushing federal takeover legislation in the U.S. Congress in a move he said will result to an economic catastrophe on the island. He also refuted claims made by his special representative to the 902 talks, Edward B. Cohen, to justify fresh bid to strip the Commonwealth its powers to control local immigration, minimum wage and custom standards. The governor said contrary to the allegations contained in a report from Mr. Cohen submitted to President Clinton, his administration is committed to taking "all feasible steps" to deal with Washington's concerns on its labor and immigration.

February 11, 2001

Customs' amnesty program flops

Nobody is apparently paying attention to that little box sitting for almost seven years now at one corner of the Saipan International Airport's arrival area, just before the place where the Customs' clearance section is situated. It may be because nobody is aware that it has been there for several years now or nobody really understands what that "amnesty box" is for. There was never a time—since the amnesty box was placed by the CNMI Division of Customs at the arrival area of the Saipan International Airport about seven years ago—did officers find anything inside the box dropped by arriving passengers, according to Director Joe Mafnas.

Gov't drafting regs on tax incentive law

The Commonwealth Development Authority and the Division of Taxation and Revenue have started crafting the implementing guidelines for a recently enacted law which grants tax incentives to new investments and existing businesses under a qualifying certificate program. CDA Executive Director Marylou S. Ada said they intend to have the implementing rules and regulations for the Public Law 12-32, also known as the Investment Incentive Act, published in the Commonwealth Register by next month. Ms. Ada, along with officials from the Division of Taxation and Revenue led by Rufin Inos, met with economic and taxation officials from Guam to see how the neighboring island went about its own qualifying certificate program.

Pacific islands show mixed economic trends

Pacific island nations and U.S. territories scattered over hundreds of thousands of square miles of the Earth's largest ocean are showing mixed economic trends. Some have not been impacted by the current international economic crisis; others are suffering like the industrial nations of Europe, Asia and the United States, according to officials at DHX-Dependable Hawaiian Express, a freight forwarder and logistics provider with ocean and air cargo operations throughout the Pacific. Their conclusions are based on government and private studies.

"Currently, a number of Pacific nations are on an even playing field with the industrial nations," said Risa Mahina Katoa, trade lane manager, South Pacific Islands.

"They now have the opportunity to integrate their natural and indigenous assets to form banking and corporate structures that should weather the current crisis," she said.

"Of all the Pacific Islands, Guam is in the strongest economic position," according to Paje Butler, Guam terminal manager for the company.

"Guam is emerging as the new centerpiece of the U.S. military's strategy in the Pacific," he said. "Guam is being transformed into the hub of U.S. Air Force operations in the Pacific replacing Okinawa and Japan."

He said the massive relocation of military personnel to Guam and the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent in improving military infrastructure on the island is generating unprecedented activity. "We are anticipating substantial increases in ocean and air cargo volume to Guam," Butler said.

Saipan, Guam's sister island in the Marianas, is not as fortunate. A number of years ago, Saipan became an outsourcing center primarily for American apparel makers. Citing its low labor costs and with no import quotas or customs duties as a U.S. territory, Saipan increasingly became dependent making products for U.S. retailers. With a sharp drop in U.S. retail volume, Saipan's apparel factories are operating at sharply diminished capacity, causing widespread unemployment.

The little South Pacific nation of Tonga, however, a former colony of Great Britain, is exhibiting economic strength. Its rich marine and agricultural resources are finding ready markets in Europe and the U.S. "There have been no job cuts among the civilian population of Tonga, with ample credit for local business expansion," Katoa said.

Other South Pacific nations are hurting.

American Samoa, a U.S. territory, finds the downturn on the U.S. mainland reflected in economic conditions on that island. Its governor is asking the U.S. Congress to include American Samoa when they consider recovery programs. Gross domestic product is down, and American Samoans must cope with the lowest per capita income among all U.S. territories. Employment gains have occurred but primarily among the lowest wage sectors.

French Polynesia (Tahiti) with its almost complete dependence on tourism for income, is in particularly dire straits. International tourism has contracted sharply during the current worldwide recession. Tahiti is burdened further by political instability (eight governments in the last four years) and, as a French colony, is part of the euro currency zone. Because of the strength of the euro against the U.S. dollar, Tahiti is the most expensive destination in the South Pacific, with even wealthy travelers avoiding the island.

Looking at the overall picture, Katoa forecasts that ocean freight volume to the South Pacific will be down considerably in 2009 based on weakened economic conditions among a number of islands. She said she does not foresee a major upturn either in ocean or air volume until 2010 when economic conditions are expected to improve. ***(Pacific Shipper)***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

MHS council hosts wellness fair today

The Marianas High School Community Council is hosting a Mini-Health and Wellness Fair today, Feb. 11, 2009, on campus from 4pm to 6pm during the 1st Quarter report Card Day for parents, teachers, students and staff to learn the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. Free tasting of Foremost Yo' Most Yogurt, Subway sandwiches and Glaceau Vitamin Water as well as free MHS Wellness t-shirts. ***(PR)***

FMI cleanup at Laulau Beach on Sunday

Friends of the Mariana Islands will lead their monthly cleanup of Laulau Beach this Sunday, Feb. 15. The cleanup will start at 8am at the yellow beach pavilion refurbished by American Red Cross last year. FMI will provide bags and gloves. Please bring a friend. ***(PR)***

Cupid's Ball at World Resort

Kagman High School's Yearbook Class '09 presents "Cupid's Ball" on Feb. 21, 2009, Saturday, at the Saipan World Resort, from 6pm to 10pm. Entertainment will be provided by Power 99 DJ Niana Dela Cruz, KHS Mr. & Mrs. Cupid, and a fashion show.

Ticket prices, which include a dinner buffet, is $20 in advance and $25 at the door. The event requires formal attire, with a theme of gold, red, and black.

MHS production photo booth:

- $2 for 1 [5x7] photo
- $2 for 2 wallet size photos

*Pay on the spot! No checks or credit. ***(PR)***

Free workshop today on detecting fake money

The United States Secret Service will be conducting a workshop on detecting counterfeit cash and other monetary instruments today, Feb. 11.

The workshop, which will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room, will be from 9am to 11am or 1pm to 3pm.

There are still some limited slots available to members of the public who may want to attend. Call the Chamber office (233-7150) as soon as possible to reserve a seat. ***(SCC)***

Marianas High School schedule

Feb. 11: 2nd Quarter Report Card Day/ Open House, 4-6pm (students released at 1pm), Parents pick up report cards from Homeroom teachers

Feb. 16: No classes (President's Day)

Feb. 17: No classes (PSS Professional Development)

Feb. 27: Cultural Day, 9am-3pm MHS campus, open to the public ***(PR)***

Live fire training at FDM until Friday

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas, said the U.S. military will be conducting live fire training on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla from Feb. 9 to 13, 7am to 6pm. The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated. For more information, contact EMO at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (EMO)

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Feb. 12, 2009, at 5:30pm at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Samuel C. Lo, O.D., M.D.

Laser and Eye Surgery Center

Dr. Samuel C. Lo is pleased to announce his affiliation with the **Hardt Eye Clinic.**

Dr. Lo received his ophthalmology training at the world renowned New York Eye and Ear Infirmary and followed by a retina fellowship at the Mt. Sinai Medical Center in New York. He specializes in the treatment of retinal disease including Diabetic eye disease, Macular degeneration, Retinal detachment, Cataract and Glaucoma. Dr. Lo returns to Saipan every few months to offer "**Advanced Eye Care**" to the people of Saipan.

Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning February 16, 2009 for one week.
Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance are accepted.

Appointments can be made by calling Hardt Eye Clinic (670) 235-2030, the Laser and Eye Surgery Center (808) 949-2000 or by email at drsamuello@yahoo.com.

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
STADT HAMBURG	029E	1/31 Sat	1/29 Thu	1/29 Thu	1/27 Tue	1/24 Sat	2/6 Fri	2/2 Mon	2/1 Sun	1/25 Sun	1/25 Sun	2/2 Mon	2/6 Fri	2/8 Sun	2/10 Tue
MELL SENOKO	017E	2/7 Sat	2/5 Thu	2/5 Thu	2/3 Tue	1/31 Sat	2/13 Fri	2/9 Mon	2/8 Sun	2/1 Sun	2/1 Sun	2/9 Mon	2/13 Fri	2/15 Sun	2/17 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	016E	2/14 Sat	2/12 Thu	2/12 Thu	2/10 Tue	2/7 Sat	2/20 Fri	2/16 Mon	2/15 Sun	2/8 Sun	2/8 Sun	2/16 Mon	2/20 Fri	2/22 Sun	2/24 Tue
STADT HAMBURG	030E	2/21 Sat	2/19 Thu	2/19 Thu	2/17 Tue	2/14 Sat	2/27 Fri	2/23 Mon	2/22 Sun	2/15 Sun	2/15 Sun	2/23 Mon	2/27 Fri	3/1 Sun	3/3 Tue
MELL SENOKO	018E	2/28 Sat	2/26 Thu	2/26 Thu	2/24 Tue	2/21 Sat	3/6 Fri	3/2 Mon	3/1 Sun	2/22 Sun	2/22 Sun	3/2 Mon	3/6 Fri	3/8 Sun	3/10 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	017E	3/7 Sat	3/5 Thu	3/5 Thu	3/3 Tue	2/28 Sat	3/13 Fri	3/9 Mon	3/8 Sun	3/1 Sun	3/1 Sun	3/9 Mon	3/13 Fri	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
STADT HAMBURG	029E	2/14 Sat	2/15 Sun	2/15 Sun	2/17 Tue	2/19 Thu	2/22 Sun	2/23 Mon	2/25 Wed	2/27 Fri	2/28 Sat	3/5 Thu	3/24 Tue	3/22 Sun	3/4 Wed
MELL SENOKO	017E	2/21 Sat	2/22 Sun	2/22 Sun	SKIP	2/26 Thu	2/28 Sat	3/1 Sun	3/3 Tue	3/6 Fri	3/7 Sat	3/12 Thu	3/31 Tue	3/29 Sun	3/11 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	016E	2/28 Sat	3/1 Sun	3/1 Sun	3/3 Tue	3/5 Thu	3/7 Sat	3/8 Sun	3/10 Tue	3/13 Fri	3/14 Sat	3/19 Thu	4/7 Tue	4/5 Sun	3/18 Wed
STADT HAMBURG	030E	3/7 Sat	3/8 Sun	3/8 Sun	SKIP	3/12 Thu	3/14 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue	3/20 Fri	3/21 Sat	3/26 Thu	4/14 Tue	4/12 Sun	3/25 Wed
MELL SENOKO	018E	3/14 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/15 Sun	3/17 Tue	3/19 Thu	3/21 Sat	3/15 Sun	3/24 Tue	3/27 Fri	3/28 Sat	4/2 Thu	4/21 Tue	4/19 Sun	4/1 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	017E	3/21 Sat	3/22 Sun	3/22 Sun	SKIP	3/26 Thu	3/28 Sat	3/22 Sun	3/31 Tue	4/3 Fri	4/4 Sat	4/9 Thu	4/28 Tue	4/26 Sun	4/8 Wed

Weekly service. More frequent. More dependable.

Website: www.mariana-express.com

Exclusive General Agent of MELL

For bookings, you may call our Saipan agent:

CTSI LOGISTICS,
CTSI Building, Lower Base,
P.O. Box 501937,
Saipan MP 96950
Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

Edgar T. Garcia
Inbound
Direct line (670) 236-2422

Jaime P. Salazar
Outbound
Direct line (670) 236-2410

Joy S. Cause
Sales and Marketing
Direct line (670) 236-2442

CTSI Logistics
Moving the world

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 36

Published daily at 2/F CIC Centre,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A missile for Mr. Obama

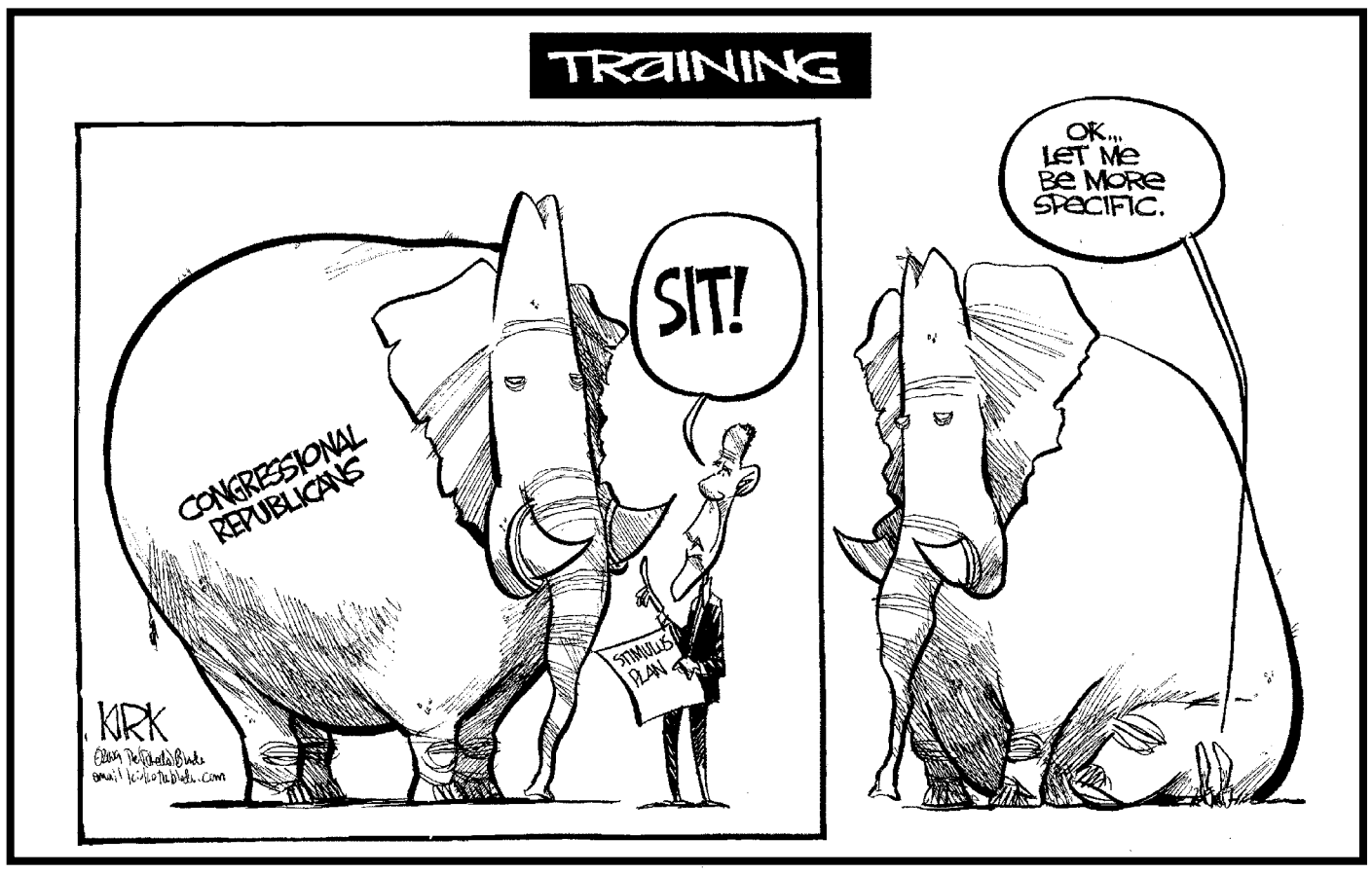
It hasn't been easy for foreign governments to command the attention of the Obama administration in its opening days, but North Korea is doing its best. Last week, the secretive Stalinist regime was spotted transporting what looked like a Taepodong-2 missile toward a launch site. In theory, the rocket has a range of more than 4,000 miles, which would allow it to reach Alaska. In trotting it out, Pyongyang is transparently threatening to violate U.N. resolutions by conducting its first flight test since 2006. This follows a steadily escalating series of provocations by the North toward South Korea, including the repudiation of past non-aggression agreements and a threat of "all-out confrontation."

The attention-getting behavior may look infantile, but from the North's point of view it is quite logical. Time and again in the past decade, dictator Kim Jong Il has manufactured a crisis by testing missiles or a nuclear weapon, taking steps to produce bomb-grade plutonium, or expelling international inspectors. In most instances he has been rewarded with diplomatic attention and bribes of food and energy from South Korea, the United States, China and other nations, in exchange for reversing or freezing the actions. The Bush administration took office eight years ago declaring it would not condone such payoffs. It meekly ended, in October, by bribing Mr. Kim to reverse steps toward resuming plutonium reprocessing.

The mess inherited by the Obama administration is considerably worse than that encountered by President Bush. North Korea recently declared that it has weaponized its entire declared stock of plutonium, which if true means it has five or six nuclear weapons. In theory, the Bush administration won Mr. Kim's commitment to give up this stockpile in a step-by-step process in exchange for economic and diplomatic favors. In practice, Pyongyang's behavior never changed: While reneging or cheating on its own commitments, it used brinkmanship to extract concession after concession from Washington.

The Obama administration now will have to determine whether and how it can revive the broken disarmament process. (Curiously, it has reportedly decided to appoint the architect of that failure, Christopher R. Hill, as ambassador to Iraq, though he lacks Middle East experience and doesn't speak Arabic.) But first it will have to answer a more fundamental question: Will it, too, respond to North Korean missile tests and war threats with attention and bribes? The State Department took a step in the right direction on Thursday by announcing a trip by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to South Korea, Japan, China and Indonesia this month—while omitting North Korea from the list of issues she would focus on. If there's one lesson to be learned from the past decade, it's that rewarding the North's provocations will only ensure more of them—and that while that strategy works, the regime will not take genuine steps toward disarmament.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



US automakers cry wolf again

By MICHAEL HILTZIK
(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Hiltzik is a Times *columnist.*

I was listening the other day to a couple of American automobile executives complain to the president of the United States about emission regulations and all their other burdens—high wages, government safety mandates, unfair foreign competition. You know the list.

They said this stuff was killing the industry. "We are in a downhill slide, the likes of which we have never seen in our business," one remarked. "And the Japs are in the wings ready to eat us up alive."

I have to say that the "Japs" remark sounded a little, well, anachronistic. So I checked the tape, and darn if it wasn't from April 1971 and the guy talking was Lee Iacocca, then the president of Ford Motor Co., and the president he was jawboning was Richard M. Nixon, who was not above uttering the occasional racial slur himself and who kindly taped the exchange for posterity.

But that's the thing about the U.S. auto industry: Its technology marches on—anyone remember push-button transmissions?—yet its whining and bellyaching never seem to change.

This week President Barack Obama signaled that the automakers' tantrums might not count for much in Washington anymore.

He did so by effectively clearing the way for California to impose stringent emission standards on cars and light trucks, over the industry's vehement objections.

Obama ordered the federal Environmental Protection Agency to consider waiving its exclusive authority to set clean-air standards so California can implement regulations that the state Air Resources Board adopted in 2005. The Bush administration blocked the waiver—the first time California had ever been turned down by the EPA after dozens of requests. Now it's almost certain to be approved.

It's hard to underestimate how momentous an advance in U.S. global warming policy this could be. California's standards, which aim to cut tailpipe emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by more than 40 percent from this year to 2020 have been a beacon of light for American environmentalists during a very dark few years. (California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, by the way, deserves praise for pressing the Bush administration on the issue.)

Once California gets its waiver, its rules could become the de facto emission standard nationwide: Thirteen other states and the District of Columbia are poised to impose the California standards as soon as they're cleared, and six more states have them under active consideration.

It's also hard to overstate how vehemently Detroit has fought these standards. (Foreign automakers aren't innocent—some of them have been fighting the rules too.) The industry has sued in California, Vermont, Rhode Island and New Mexico to block them. A federal judge threw out the Vermont case in 2007; the others are pending.

Detroit's chief complaint is that the California standards, if imposed state by state, would produce a "patchwork" of 51 regulations that would be impossible, or at least very costly, to meet consistently. (The standards are keyed to the mix of vehicles sold, which can vary considerably by state.)

Of course, that merely signals that the carmakers plan to do the absolute minimum to meet California's regulations. Nothing would prevent them from embracing the challenge and aiming to get over the bar in every jurisdiction.

But U.S. automakers have always felt that it's better to fight a regulation than to find a way to comply through improved engineering. It's probably possible to figure out how much money the industry has wasted on lawyers trying to beat government regulations in court, but I'm not sure a calculator exists that can display that many digits.

The gold standard for its approach is that meeting Iacocca and Henry Ford II, Ford's chairman, had with Nixon on April 27, 1971. Ford and Iacocca groused that government requirements for shoulder harnesses, headrests and air bags would drive up the cost of cars into the stratosphere—the price of a Pinto, Ford said, would go up by 50 percent if they had to install passive restraints. (He might have been onto something: The Ford Pinto proved to be basically a dynamite stick with a tailpipe, so strapping passengers in with shoulder belts rather than giving them ejection seats might have been the wrong choice.)

Nixon, crabbing along in harmony with them about "demagogues" like Ralph Nader, obligingly suspended the rule.

Detroit has predicted that almost every regulatory mandate it has faced would produce economic Armageddon. It's always wrong. In the 1970s, the carmakers said emissions standards would bankrupt them. Then came the catalytic converter, which enabled them to meet the standards easily. They said Americans would balk at safety devices like air bags. Instead, safety turned out to be a big selling point, so today they compete to see who can fill a car with more side, front, and curtain air bags.

Their biggest miscalculation was that fuel economy wouldn't matter to the American auto buyer. So they let Toyota and Honda beat them to market with hybrids—by years.

Continuing to fight the last war, they oppose the California regulations on the assumption that they're more stringent than the federal rules. On the surface that's true. Although the greenhouse gas emissions rules aren't quite the same as fuel economy standards, they're closely related, and California's rules, according to calculations by the National Resources Defense Council, would produce average automobile fuel economy of about 40 miles per gallon by 2020, exceeding the federal goal of 35.

But the NRDC observes that as high fuel prices drive Americans to smaller, thriftier cars, the state's system will benefit the industry by giving it more flexibility in meeting the standards, via credits for alternative fuel vehicles and smaller cars.

"Under any realistic scenario they'll be better off with the California regulations," Roland Hwang, a transportation policy analyst at NRDC, told me this week.

See US on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Toward a life transparent

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

My House of Glass

In the middle of the desert
far away from where eyes roam
I built myself a house of glass
and this I call my home

No brick to block my vision
and no walls to stop the light
No steel to hide the moon
and I can see the stars at night

My friends who come to visit
think it strange but never say
While others simply ask me
why I'd want to live this way

They ask," What of your privacy?"
or, "Doesn't it get hot?"
Or "Don't the neighbors bother you,
or laugh and point a lot?"

It's not about the prying eyes
or what's inside to hide
It's all about my access
to the earth and sky outside

There's nothing that I am
that I'm afraid to let you see
These walls of glass connect me
Oddly, too, they keep me free

This claim of separation
is a fallacy we're sold
If finger-pointing frightens
Here's a truth you must be told:

No walls can stop man's judgment
for men fear both seen and veiled
And not by what men see
should you be now or ever jailed

Toward a life transparent
do I move despite my fear
My house of glass allows me
to make sure I see things clear!

My friends who know me may recognize this reference to a picture of a two-story glass house on my wall that represents my dream home. Of course, there is more to the concept. The glass house, you see, represents transparency, both literally and symbolically. It represents truth. It represents a life in which you remove every veil or curtain that would obscure the light from without as well as the light from within.

I mentioned in last week's column in my letter to Rashaa that the truth shall set you free. Imagine how free your life would be if you lived it as an open book. There would be no need to hide. Everyone would know who you really were. You wouldn't need to lie about the things you do or believe. No one could blackmail you. No one could control you. You would live fearlessly.

Imagine if you formed and lived all of your relationships on the basis of transparency, truth and full disclosure. How liberating would it be to live without deception? How freeing would it be not to have to cover up your deeds because you promised something you had no intentions of delivering?

Yes, transparency is the key to freedom, because transparency is the ultimate truth. I can see clearly now.

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Visa Waiver comments

Do you have a concern about the pending visa waiver law? Make your voice heard! Please note that public comments must be submitted by March 17, 2009. You must reference Docket *#: USCBP-2009-0001 in your letters.* Send letters to:

Border Security Regulations
Branch, Office of International Trade,
Customs and Border Protection, Mint Annex,
799 9th Street, NW.,
Washington, DC 20001.

Also, submit your comments and concerns online at www.change.gov, www.whitehouse.gov, www.regulations.gov, and www. dhs.gov. The more the better.

***Note**: For more tips on overcoming your fears, acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. *Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.*

The NFL

Oh, you thought I meant football! No, not even. The real, the original NFL, the National Forensic League, was founded in 1924; the football organization that copied its acronym began in 1936.

Ten years ago an NFL chapter was founded here in the CNMI. It has grown, become established, and demonstrated success on a huge scale. The irony of that statement is, that even with the numbers I am about to throw out, there are still those in our CNMI community who don't know what the NFL is or where to find it or understand the value that such an organization offers our community.

Again, 10 years ago (1999) one of our schools hosted our first NFL competition. It featured a dozen separate events, e.g., debate, impromptu speech, dramatic interpretation, socio-political extemporaneous speech and the like. There were 168 judged presentations (entries) that day. Four schools were involved as I recall. The following year, the number of schools increased to eight. The largest event hosted 465 entries, and there were four such events during the year. The larger number of entries was due in part to the expansion of divisions being accommodated. The NJFL was added bringing our junior high youngsters into the fold. And, due to the interest of one of our elementary school teachers, from Kagman elementary, two new divisions featuring grades K-2 and 3-5 were added. We weren't yet bursting at the seams, but that was about to change.

Things were going smoothly. The judging corps for the various divisions and events were volunteer professionals from the community at large: district court judges, lawyers, doctors, professors from the college, businessmen and more. Ahh, and then year three was upon us. And boy was it upon us!

I happened to walk in on the first meet of the year, in year three (2001). It was being held at Mt. Carmel high school. As I walked through the gate from the church parking lot I noticed crowds of young people milling around. I sought out the meet generalissimo and asked what was going on. He looked desperate. "We have 1,225 entries and half the judges necessary to handle them."

I couldn't believe it! From 168 entries in 1999, to roughly 2,000 entries in 2000; we were suddenly looking at 5,000 entries for 2001. Put another way, the NFL umbrella group was forced to go from utilizing one Saturday each month at one school, to holding its meets at multiple schools spread over several weekends each month. And this isn't all. The NFL umbrella has grown to include the International Thespian Society (ITS), The International Junior Thespians (JITS), Math Court (MC), and our newest division, the Carolinian and Chamorro Forensic Speech divisions (CCFS) (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12).

As an illustration of the expanding appeal of the NFL, last month (January '09), and I checked, over 1,200 students entered some three thousand judged events in the combined divisions. This, I am told, is about average for a regular interscholastic one-month series. Carrying out the numbers, by its end, school year '08-'09 will have seen some 15,000 judged entries from the combined divisions.

By STEPHEN B. SMITH
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Stephen B. Smith is the Accreditation, Language Arts, and National Forensic League coordinator for the Public School System Central Office.

This is growth! So, getting to the point of this preamble, the growth has continued. This year the regional championships are so large that they have to be held on eight separate evenings and days in March. This is astounding because unlike other interscholastic meets during the school year, which are open to any regularly enrolled student, Regionals has qualifier limitations.

Regionals, too, is a qualifier in and of itself. Gold medalists in some of the divisions qualify to compete at various national championships and events. For those who are not aware, the CNMI has had numerous placements and breaks (advanced in competition) at the national level. In the NFL we have placed as high as eighth, in the NJFL third, in the ITS several scholarships have been awarded and high ratings achieved. Numerous other awards have also been gleaned, proving the worth of our student word-warriors. CNMI young people can compete with anybody; the record is clear.

Letter to the Editor

Chief Tano's adolescence on federalization

Chief Tano's presumptuous stewardship and unmistakable lack of clarity of understanding over the rights of local governance to a greater degree of self-rule is definitely mind-boggling. But then, the fear rhetoric is self-inflicted in the fatal four walls of his ghostwriter's nether world of, yes, fear of insecurity! He has yet to transcend personal fear to embrace real identity.

The embarrassment you've hurled against responsible leadership obviously portrays the three accusatory fingers pointing right back at your jumbo belly. How fortunate local governance that it isn't represented by disoriented chief tano who can't figure out apples from oranges. But then this is the fodder I relish at day's end.

Evidently, I've found the cowardly and beastly creature scribbling your letters. I will make a courtesy call to his office one of these fine days and ask for his cranium if only to determine if he isn't suffering from frontal lobotomy. What sterling accomplishment, sir! *Hafa amigo, manu `nai un` pega sensiamu komo lahe na finañago na esta pago uma`atog hao gi tatten chief tano?*

Will the real McCoy (ghostwriter) please step forward? Eh, I take you on a cakewalk into the world of courage and dignity, sir!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

US

From Page 10

It's certainly true that the only path to long-term viability for the American auto industry goes through advanced technology and more efficient products. We know this because the Big Three's CEOs said so to Congress in December when they came asking for billions in handouts.

But will they ever cease whining and get down to business? Responding to Obama's initiative, an industry spokesgroup claimed that Detroit faces "different standards ... and different timelines" from three regulators—California, the EPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation—and said it seeks "one national standard," which sounds like it's girding for more lobbying.

In other words, just what got it where it is today.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

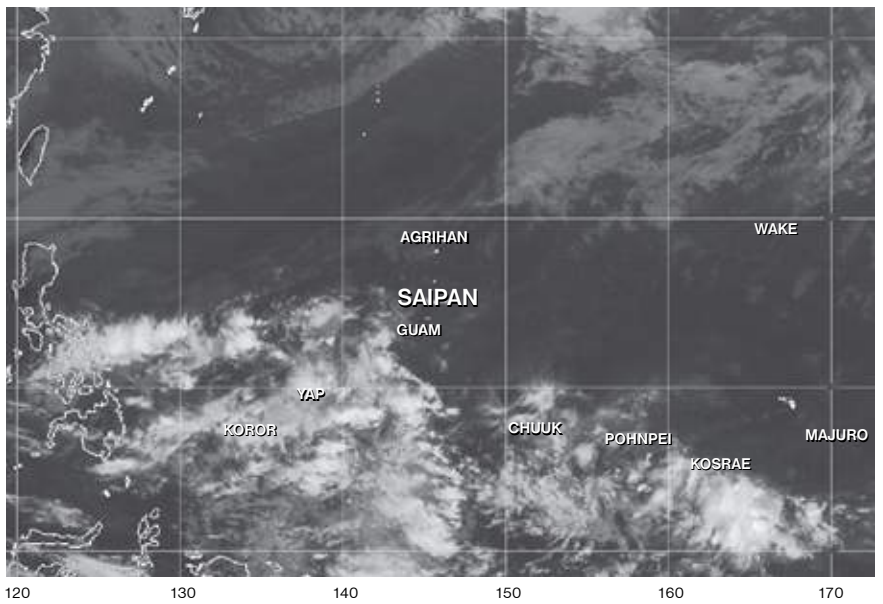
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼74
Palau	Thyunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Rain	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼81
Majuro	Sunny	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲77	▼71
Beijing	Cloudy	▲52	▼34
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲77	▼68
Honolulu	Showers	▲76	▼70
London	Rain/Snow	▲39	▼32
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼46
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲65	▼52
Miami	Showers	▲82	▼70
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼43
Osaka	Showers	▲53	▼38
Paris	Cloudy	▲41	▼30
Pusan	Sunny	▲60	▼42
Rome	Showers	▲46	▼33
Salem	Rain	▲46	▼29
San Francisco	Rain	▲56	▼44
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲50	▼36
Tokyo	Showers	▲52	▼41
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼45

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, FEB. 10, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak circulation is located near 7N130E. A trough of low pressure extends from the circulation to 14N140E. Low-level convergence in the vicinity of the circulation and trough is producing three areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. The first area covers Yap State between 4N and 10N from 137E to 140E. The second area can be found between 10N and 14N from 130E to 140E. The third area is east of Yap between the equator and 11N from 140E to 148E. An old shear line trails southwestward from 25N175E to 20N168E to 21N150E through the northernmost CNMI to 18N140E then to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 5N from 150E to 165E and between the equator and 3N from 165E to 177E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
2:49 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
9:21 AM Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:20 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
8:42 PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:43 AM	6:19 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Saturday	6:42 AM	6:20 PM
Sunday	6:42 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:56 PM	7:39 AM
Thursday	8:50 PM	8:19 AM
Friday	9:43 PM	8:59 AM
Saturday	10:36 PM	9:38 AM
Sunday	11:29 PM	10:19 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Sunday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $182. Off-island subscription rate is $376 per year. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
3,428.600
Down 17.200
(-0.50%)

HONG KONG
13,717.50
Down 51.56
(-0.37%)

JAKARTA
1,328.619
Down 13.6069
(-1.01%)

TOKYO
7,955.76
Down 13.27
(-0.17%)

K. LUMPUR
896.64
Up 16.69
(1.90%)

MANILA
1,917.57
Down 33.89
(-1.74%)

SINGAPORE
1,689.14
Up 6.80
(0.40%)

SEOUL
1,195.87
Down 6.82
(-0.57%)

BANGKOK
442.10
Down 2.29
(-0.52%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
8,270.87
9.72

NASDAQ
1,591.56
0.15

S&P
869.89
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.4912
British Pound	0.6733
Canadian Dollar	1.2216
Chinese Renminbi	6.8327
Euro	0.7778
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7528
Indian Rupee	48.6850
Indonesian Rupiah	11,825.0000
Japanese Yen	91.3850
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5890
New Zealand Dollar	1.8716
Philippine Peso	47.0680
Singapore Dollar	1.4996
South Korean Won	1,383.1000
Swiss Franc	1.1742
Taiwan Dollar	33.8500
Thailand Baht	35.0300

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Obama to Congress: Pass stimulus, don't play games

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama, urgently pressuring lawmakers to approve a massive economic recovery bill, turned his first news conference Monday night into a determined defense of his emergency plan and an offensive against Republicans who try to "play the usual political games."

He said the recession has left the nation so weak that only the federal government can "jolt our economy back to life." And he declared that failure to act swiftly and boldly "could turn a crisis into a catastrophe."

"The party now is over," he said.

Obama

Speedy passage of legislation to pump federal money into the crippled economy, once seemingly assured with bipartisan support, has become a much heavier lift and a major test of Obama's young presidency. With more than 11 million Americans now out of work, Obama defended his program against Republican criticism that it is too big, loaded with pork-barrel spending and won't create jobs.

"The plan is not perfect," the president said. "No plan is. I can't tell you for sure that everything in this plan will work exactly as we hope, but I can tell you with complete confidence that a failure to act will only deepen this crisis as well as the pain felt by millions of Americans."

Obama said the country could well be in better shape by next year, as measured by increased hiring, lending, home values and other factors. "If we get things right, then, starting next year, we can start seeing significant improvement," Obama said.

On the day that an $838 billion version of the stimulus legislation cleared a crucial test vote in the Senate, Obama warned darkly of what he said would be the consequences of inaction, addressing the nation from the East Room of the White House in a prime-time news conference that lasted almost exactly one hour.

"This is not your ordinary, run of the mill recession," he said. Obama said the United States could tumble into the kind of economic pain that Japan endured in the 1990s—the "lost decade" when that nation showed no economic growth.

Sales of jar peanut butter fall amid salmonella fears

ATLANTA (AP)—Shoppers are leaving jarred peanut butter off their grocery lists, according to sales figures, even though familiar brands have not been affected by the salmonella outbreak that has sickened hundreds and led to one of the largest product recalls in U.S. history.

To fight the sales slump, the makers of Jif and Peter Pan have countered with a costly advertising campaign aimed at reassuring nervous eaters.

Jarred peanut butter sales during the four weeks ending Jan. 24 dropped 22 percent from the same period the previous year, according to figures compiled by The Nielsen Company, which tracks consumer purchasing decisions. The 33.8 million pounds of peanut butter includes jars sold at food, drug and mass merchandisers, but not Wal-Mart stores.

Although more recent data weren't available Monday, hundreds more products have been recalled since the period measured by Nielsen, making the peanut industry's woes even more visible to consumers. As a result, some consumers say they're avoiding peanut butter entirely.

"I just stopped because I didn't want to risk anything happening," said Kate Labrecque, 24, as she ate lunch in a downtown Atlanta park. She said she's waiting until "they put something out that says it's safe to eat stuff with peanuts."

AP

Michael Jackson, an Atlanta printer, reaches for his sandwich Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 while having lunch in Centennial Olympic Park. The continuing salmonella outbreak scare has stopped him from eating any type of peanut products.

Asiana begins Magic Boarding Pass program

Asiana customers can get discounts at 33 partner companies by showing their Asiana's international flight boarding pass.

The carrier recently began its Magic Boarding Pass program which enables Asiana's passengers to get up to 50 percent discounts at partner companies such as tourist attractions, hotels, restaurants, and shopping centers.

Passengers who travel with Asiana can get a 10-50 percent discount on products at Asiana's partners companies by showing their original boarding pass and personal identification within seven days of their flight.

For example, Asiana's passengers can get a 15 percent discount on passes to Everland, a 23 percent discount on the entrance fee to Jeju Teddy Bear Museum, and a discount of up to 50 percent at Best Western Hotels depending on the branch.

Until now, boarding passes have had limited usage and with Asiana's Magic Boarding Pass program boarding passes will become more functional especially for passengers. Asiana expects customers who fly to Korea from overseas to use the Asiana's Magic Boarding Pass program and get discounts at Asiana partner companies located throughout Korea. ***(PR)***

List of Asiana's Magic Boarding Pass Partners

Industries	Partner Companies
Tourist Attractions	Jeju Teddy Bear Museum, Everland, Seoul Land, COEX Aquarium, Korean Folk Village, 7Luck Casino, Teseum
Restaurants	The Korea House, Villa Sortino, Kahunaville, Ocean Star, O'Kim's Bräuhaus, Chosun Deli, Sheobul, Chi Do Ri, Café bizbaz, WELLS Cafeteria, WELLS Snack Bar
Hotels	Best Western, JW Marriott Seoul, Mayfield Hotel, Paradise Hotel, Lotte Hotel Jeju, Jeju Shilla Hotel
Shopping & More	I-Park Department Store, Yeoju Premium Outlets, Duty Free Korea Incheon International Airport, AREX (Airport Railroad Express), Seoul City Tour Bus & Double-decker Bus Tour, HUB Lounge, WELLS Massage & Nail Shop, Kumho Rent-A-Car, Jungmun Beach Golf Club

Oil below $40 as investors eye US stimulus

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices languished below $40 a barrel Tuesday in Asia even as investors looked to a massive U.S. stimulus package as a possible tonic for flagging crude demand.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose 35 cents to $39.91 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 61 cents overnight to settle at $39.56.

The Senate passed an $838 billion economic stimulus bill in a key test vote Monday, setting up final approval on Tuesday. The plan will then have to be reconciled with an $819 billion package from the House of Representatives.

The measure nearing approval in the Senate calls for more tax cuts and less spending than the House bill.

"There could be a $3 or $4 premium once the package comes through, but it's pretty much been priced in already," said Mark Pervan, senior commodity strategist with ANZ Bank in Melbourne. "Going forward, the market will be looking for evidence that it's really having an impact on demand."

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner also plans to outline rules on Tuesday for $350 billion in bailout funds designed to help the financial industry as well as homeowners facing foreclosure.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Goldman Sachs moves meeting from Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has moved a three-day conference from the Las Vegas Strip to San Francisco amid what the bank is calling a broad review of its activities. Goldman, which has accepted $10 billion in federal bailout funds, will hold its Technology and Internet Conference Feb. 25-27 at the San Francisco Marriott instead of the Mandalay Bay casino-resort. A Mandalay Bay official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to release customer information, said the bank agreed to pay the hotel $600,000 to cancel its reservation. Goldman spokesman Ed Canaday confirmed the conference move to The Associated Press on Monday night but could not comment on the cancellation charge. Canaday said he did not know whether the company was saving money or spending more with the move. "That's not the driving reason behind it," Canaday told the AP.

Cuts loom as GM, Chrysler finish viability plans

DETROIT (AP)—Fear of more plant closures and other cuts that are likely to cost thousands of jobs is spreading through General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC as the companies approach a Feb. 17 deadline to show the government they can be viable. Both companies' plans are presumed to include concessions from bondholders and the United Auto Workers. GM's plan will include shuttering additional factories as well as salaried pay and job cuts, according to people familiar with the plans. Both GM and Chrysler must prove to the government that they are able to repay the federal loans that are keeping the companies afloat in the worst U.S. auto sales climate in 26 years. GM has received $9.4 billion and expects to get $4 billion more, while Chrysler has received $4 billion and is hoping to get another $3 billion. That means the automakers will have to make substantial cost cuts. The companies are required to show the government they can achieve "positive net present value," which means that the present value of a company's expected net cash flows exceeds the initial investment in the company.

Sheriff called to stop scuffle at Tenn. job center

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—When it comes to waiting all night in the employment line, there's no jumping ahead. Sheriff Randall Boyce in Shelbyville, Tenn., says he was called to a job center Monday to end scuffling between immigrants from different countries applying for jobs at a poultry plant. Boyce says some applicants who had camped overnight were upset when new arrivals seemed to be cutting line. He says language differences led to pushing and shoving, but no one was arrested, and all in a crowd of about 150 people got to apply for limited openings at a Tyson Foods plant. The sheriff says most were applicants from Iraq and Sudan now living in Nashville, about 55 miles away, where immigrants from several nations have been resettled.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI raids Ga. plant at center of salmonella scare

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal agents on Monday raided a Georgia peanut processing plant linked to the nationwide salmonella outbreak that has prompted one of the largest product recalls in U.S. history. The FBI executed search warrants at both the plant in Blakely, Ga., and at Peanut Corp. of America's headquarters in Lynchburg, Va., according to a senior congressional aide with knowledge of the raids. The official spoke only on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. The plant has been identified as the source of the salmonella that has sickened hundreds and killed as many as eight people. Atlanta television station WSB's cameras captured FBI agents entering the plant and leaving with boxes and other material.

Judges tentatively order Calif. inmates released

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A special panel of federal judges tentatively ruled Monday that California must release tens of thousands of inmates to relieve overcrowding. The judges said no other solution will improve conditions so poor that inmates die regularly of suicides or lack of proper care. The panel said it wanted the state to present a plan to trim the population in two to three years. "There are simply too many prisoners for the existing capacity," they wrote. "Evidence offered at trial was overwhelmingly to the effect that overcrowding is the primary cause of the unconstitutional conditions that have been found to exist in the California prisons." The three judges suggested a target prison population of between 100,800 and 121,000 inmates—down from the current level of about 158,000. More inmates live in conservation camps, community correctional facilities and private prisons in other states.

Friends: Professor loved son charged in beating

KENT, Ohio (AP)—A Kent State University professor who was fatally beaten in her home was devoted to caring for her 18-year-old autistic son, who is charged with attacking her, friends say. Gertrude "Trudy" Steuernagel, 60, struggled to raise her son Sky Walker, but she loved him and would want people to know that autism doesn't equal violence, said Steven Hook, chairman of the school's political science department, where Steuernagel taught political theory and women's studies. Steuernagel died Friday in a hospital, a week after she was severely injured in a beating. An autopsy completed Monday showed bruises around her head and chest, said Gary Guenther, an investigator with the Summit County medical examiner's office. The cause of death has not yet been determined. Walker, who is being held in jail on $2 million bond, was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday on charges of attempted murder and assault on a police officer. Portage County Sheriff David Doak said the charge might be upgraded to murder.

Stimulus bill narrowly survives Senate test vote

WASHINGTON (AP)—An $838 billion economic stimulus bill backed by the White House survived a key test vote in the Senate on Monday despite strong Republican opposition, and Democratic leaders vowed to deliver legislation for President Barack Obama's signature within a few days.

The vote was 61-36, one more than the 60 needed to advance the measure toward Senate passage on Tuesday. That in turn, will set the stage for possibly contentious negotiations with the House on a final compromise on legislation the president says is desperately needed to tackle the worst economic crisis in more than a generation.

The Senate vote occurred as the Obama administration moved ahead on another key component of its economic recovery plan. Officials said Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner would outline rules on Tuesday for $350 billion in bailout funds designed to help the financial industry as well as homeowners facing foreclosure.

Monday's vote was close but scarcely in doubt once the White House and Democratic leaders agreed to trim about $100 billion on Friday.

As a result, Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania broke ranks to cast their votes to advance the bill.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., battling a brain tumor, made his first appearance in the Capitol since suffering a seizure on Inauguration Day, and he joined all other Democrats in support of the measure.

"There is no reason we can't do this by the end of the week," said Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada. He said he was prepared to hold the Senate in session into the Presidents Day weekend if necessary, and cautioned Republicans not to try and delay final progress.

He said passage would mark "the first step on the long road to recovery."

Moments before the vote, the Congressional Budget Office issued a new estimate that put the cost at $838 billion, an increase from the $827 billion figure from last week. Ironically, the agency said provisions in the bill intended to limit bonuses to executives at firms receiving federal bailout money would result in lower tax revenues for the government.

AP

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., right, with Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., speaks with the media before the cloture vote on the Stimulus Bill on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, Feb. 9, 2009.

Disabled men put to work at Iowa plant for decades

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—State officials say 21 mentally disabled men lived for 20 years or more in an old building with boarded-up windows and nothing but space heaters for heat. It wasn't some neglectful group home—it was the bunkhouse for Henry's Turkey Service.

The plight of the company's meat-processing workers went unnoticed for decades by the state until Thursday, when a tipster called a Department of Health Services hot line. Gov. Chet Culver said local officials were going to court to allow the state to take guardianship of the men and would launch an investigation of how the situation in Muscatine County was allowed to continue for 20 years.

"It's too soon to know the extent of the potential criminal and civil penalties and fines," Culver said at a Statehouse news conference. "This is going to be a very extensive and thorough legal process."

Calls to Henry's Turkey Service were not answered Monday. The company has a contract to provide laborers for an eastern Iowa turkey processing plant, West Liberty Foods.

The 21 men were all from Texas but had lived in Iowa for 20 years or more while working at the plant. They lived in a 106-year-old house on a hilltop in nearby Atalissa, a town of about 300 people about 20 miles east of Iowa City.

Department of Human Services director Gene Gessow said it's clear that money was being deducted from Social Security checks the men received.

"We will have a lot more to say as we discover any more violations," Culver said. "What we do know is that money was deducted from their paychecks for housing and other services."

Henry's Turkey Service apparently acted as the men's employer, landlord and caregiver.

Relatives showed The Des Moines Register payroll records showing that in January the company deducted $487 from one worker, Keith Brown, to pay for room and board, then another $572 for "kind care." Keith Brown's sister Sherri Brown told the Register her brother has $80 in savings after decades of work at Henry's.

The house was closed Saturday night. Gessow said all 21 of the men have been placed under a protective status and in temporary housing.

Smoking curbs clear hurdle in home of Marlboro man

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—In a sign of how vilified smoking has become, lawmakers in Virginia—where the world's largest cigarette factory churns out Marlboros—passed curbs on smoking in restaurants.

Monday's 59-39 vote in the House of Delegates approved a watered-down bill that allows smoking only in private clubs, outdoor cafes, designated smoking rooms and establishments that are off-limits to minors.

And the proposed penalties are hardly draconian: a maximum civil fine of $25 for smokers or restaurateurs who defy the law.

The bill already exempted private clubs and outdoor patios. On Monday, it was further diluted by Republican amendments that would allow smoking in any establishment off-limits to minors and in any restaurant rented for a private, invitation-only event.

The Republican amendments now send the bill back to the Democrat-dominated Senate, where it faces a dubious fate.

Still, the measure is a step beyond anything yet contemplated in Virginia. Year after year, more ambitious smoking bans have failed miserably before a legislature that meets in a Capitol where frescoes of golden tobacco leaves adorn the rotunda's ceiling.

Tobacco has been a mainstay since Virginia was founded at Jamestown 400 years ago and at one time was regarded as currency. As a mostly agricultural society though the midpoint of the 20th century, tobacco plantations underpinned the state's economy.

Octuplet mom was treated at Beverly Hills clinic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Southern California mother of octuplets was implanted with embryos at a Beverly Hills fertility clinic run by a well-known—and controversial—specialist who pioneered a method for helping women conceive.

Dr. Michael Kamrava's name emerged Monday as a result of an interview aired Monday on NBC with Nadya Suleman, who gave birth to eight babies Jan. 26.

Over the past two weeks, the identity of Suleman's fertility doctor has been a source of great mystery because of questions over the ethics of implanting numerous embryos in a woman who already had six children.

Kamrava, 56, did not immediately return a pager message left by The Associated Press, and a receptionist at his clinic near Rodeo Drive said he was not giving interviews.

Without identifying the doctor, the Medical Board of California said last week it was looking into the Suleman case to see if there was a "violation of the standard of care." The medical board said Monday it has not taken any disciplinary action against Kamrava in the past.

In the NBC interview, Suleman did not identify her doctor by name, but said that she went to the West Coast IVF Clinic in Beverly Hills—of which Kamrava is director—and that all 14 of her children were conceived with help from the same doctor. In 2006, Los Angeles TV station KTLA ran a story on infertility that showed Kamrava treating Suleman and discussing embryo implantation.

Kamrava graduated from the University of Illinois and went to medical school at Case Western University in Cleveland, according to state records and his Web site.

Asia

SKorea will talk to North but maintains hard line

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Lee Myung-bak said Monday that he is ready for dialogue with North Korea, though he vowed not to veer from the hard-line principles that have angered the communist state and strained ties over the past year.

Tension between the divided Koreas has intensified in recent weeks, with North Korea announcing it would scrap peace agreements with the South, warning of a war on the peninsula and reportedly preparing to test a missile capable of reaching the western United States.

"I am well aware of the fact there are some people who are uneasy about North Korea's recent series of threats," Lee said in a regular radio speech. "However, my fellow citizens, we don't have to worry about that too much."

Lee reiterated that his government is ready to sit down "anytime" with North Korea for talks to reduce tension, though added he will stick to his basic policy and not be too hasty to achieve results.

"I believe what is particularly important in South-North ties is unwavering, unequivocal principles," said Lee, who has periodically called for dialogue, including in his inauguration speech last year when he said he was willing to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

However, Lee has said South Korea should not offer unconditional aid to its impoverished, nuclear-armed neighbor as his liberal predecessors did. In response, North Korea cut off all ties last year, halted cooperation on key joint projects and vilified Lee as "human scum."

It is difficult to envision either side giving in, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University.

"The two sides are in a situation where neither could back down," he said. "Backing down is considered losing."

Last week, South Korean and Japanese media reports said the North was moving a suspected long-range missile to its launch site, saying a test would follow in one to two months. Analysts said the North was trying to attract President Barack Obama's attention as he formulates his North Korea policy.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is scheduled to visit South Korea next week as part of an Asian trip. North Korea's nuclear threat is expected to be a key topic during her visits to South Korea, Japan and China—the three nations that, along with the U.S. and Russia, are pressing the North to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

The nuclear talks have been stalled for months over how to verify the country's past nuclear activities.

Separately, Gen. Walter L. Sharp, the top U.S. military commander in South Korea, told reporters Monday that North Korea should put its efforts into dismantling its nuclear programs in a verifiable manner rather than focusing on ballistic missiles.

"We call on North Korea to stop provocations and act like a responsible country," Sharp said.

He added that U.S. and South Korean forces "are prepared for any contingency and any instability" such as a humanitarian disaster, a civil war and potential loose nuclear weapons in North Korea.

As Sharp spoke, North Korea accused the United States of plotting an attack, citing a recent air drill north of Seoul.

Poll: US, allies, Kabul government losing ground

WASHINGTON (AP)—Support for the Kabul government and the United States and European troops trying to bolster it against insurgents is plummeting among the Afghan people, a new poll reports.

The decline is striking particularly in the last year, the poll shows, even as the Obama administration and NATO allies weigh moves to strengthen forces in the struggle with Taliban and other radical groups.

President Barack Obama has assigned high priority to the conflict and the administration is weighing whether to send another 30,000 U.S. troops there, almost doubling the 32,000 present.

His election, however, does not appear to hold much promise among the Afghan people: Two in 10 think he will make things better for the Afghan people and nearly as many think he will make things worse. The rest either expect no change or are waiting to see.

The poll, conducted by ABC News, the BBC and ARD German TV found, for instance, that the number of Afghans who say their country is headed in the right direction has dropped from 77 percent in 2005 to 40 percent now. That new and lower level is the first time less than half the Afghans polled were found to approve.

On top of that decline, while 83 percent of Afghans expressed a favorable opinion of the United States in 2005, just 47 percent feel that way now.

There was an 18 percent drop this year alone, according to polling results.

Other negative findings include:

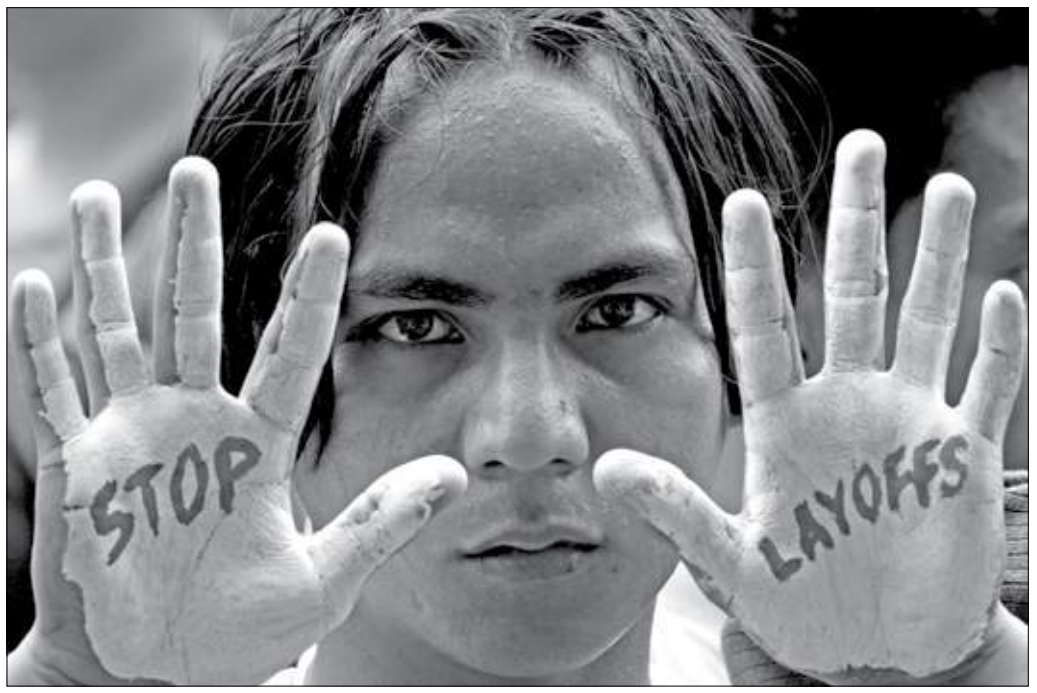
■ While 68 percent of Afghans polled in 2005 credited the United States with a good performance, the new approval figure is just 32 percent, a drop of more than half.

■ NATO, which is allied with the United States, has the support of only 37 percent of Afghans, the poll showed.

■ As for the central government in Kabul, while 83 percent of Afghans approved of President Hamid Karzai and 80 percent of the government in 2005, when the polling began, that support has slid to 52 per cent for Karzai and 49 percent for the government.

■ There is strong complaint about U.S. and NATO air strikes, with 79 percent of Afghans saying they are unacceptable, that the risk to civilians outweighs the value in fighting insurgents.

The poll was based on in-person interviews with a random national sample of 1,534 Afghan adults from Dec. 30, 2008 to Jan. 12, 2009. Field work was done by the Afghan Center for Socio-Economic and Opinion Research in Kabul. The interviews were conducted by 176 interviewers in 34 supervised teams and the results have a 2.5-point error margin.



STOP LAYOFFS AP

A protester displays his painted hands with a "Stop Layoffs" slogan during a rally at the Department of Labor and Employment, DOLE, in Manila Monday Feb. 9, 2009 in anticipation of the massive lay-offs of workers, both here and abroad, due to the global economic slowdown. The protesters denounced President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's resolutions as economic stimulus package, labor export policy and charter change and called instead for a "genuine pro-people alternative" to the current crisis. Officials predict job cuts will reach about 1.7 million.

Clashes erupt near where Red Cross workers held in RP

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Abu Sayyaf militants holding three Red Cross workers tried to break a military cordon that has boxed them in for days, setting off a clash Monday that wounded five marines and sparked concerns over the hostages' safety.

Troops engaged in the fighting in southern Jolo Island's Indanan township could mount a rescue if the clash, which continued after dark, deteriorates, military spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said. The military had previously said it will not stage a rescue while officials pursue a peaceful handover.

"Military operations have always been an option to take, and, having exhausted all other possible means for a peaceful release of the victims, we are left with no choice but to use military force to rescue," Torres said in a statement, though he later told The Associated Press no green light had been given for a rescue.

"The clash is continuing and the situation is very fluid," Torres said, adding that military commanders on the ground can make their own decisions.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen holding International Committee of the Red Cross workers Andreas Notter of Switzerland, Italian Eugenio Vagni and Mary Jean Lacaba of the Philippines "fired the first shot at government troops in an attempt to extricate themselves from the military cordon," Torres said.

There was no way to verify the hostages' condition. Sen. Richard Gordon, who heads the local Red Cross, expressed concern for their safety.

He has appealed to the military, police and about 600 armed civilians who have formed a loose cordon around the kidnappers and their captives to keep a safe distance to avoid accidental clashes.

Another military official, Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Pangilinan, said the marines apparently clashed with an advance group of Abu Sayyaf gunmen who tried to breach the security cordon. The three hostages may have been with a main group nearby, he said.

Pakistan govt wants more Mumbai attack evidence

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan wants to prosecute any of its citizens suspected in the Mumbai attacks, but it will need more evidence from India to proceed with the case, the country's top security officials said Monday.

Pakistan's weak civilian government is under intense international pressure to prosecute those linked to the November attacks that killed 164 people, but is having to fend off powerful domestic critics who do not want to see it cooperate with a neighbor with which it has fought three wars in 60 years.

Pakistani officials on condition of anonymity have said previously that at least two main suspects in the attacks have been arrested. In addition, the country say it has arrested scores more people involved with the anti-India militant group blamed for the attacks and a charity alleged linked to it.

In a statement, the defense committee of the Cabinet did not refer to those arrests but said that the attacks themselves should be registered as a crime with police. This is a formal step needed to initiate criminal proceedings against any suspects but one that in itself does not guarantee a trial will take place.

ASIAN BRIEFS

South Korean police chief nominee withdraws

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The man picked to become South Korea's top police officer withdrew his nomination Tuesday over a commando raid that left six people dead in a clash with displaced tenants. Seoul Police Chief Kim Seok-ki, chosen by President Lee Myung-bak to head the National Police Agency, had been under pressure to step aside over the deadly police crackdown on a squatter protest last month. Kim told a news conference he made the decision to withdraw to avoid further controversy. He also said he would quit his post as Seoul's police chief. Kim's announcement came a day after prosecutors cleared police of any wrongdoing over the commando raid.

Fire put out at Beijing luxury hotel

BEIJING (AP)—One fireman was killed fighting a blaze that destroyed a 44-story luxury hotel being constructed as part of Beijing's frenetic Olympic makeover and next door to a landmark television headquarters in downtown Beijing, state media reported Tuesday. The fire, which sent off huge plumes of black smoke and showered the ground with embers, was put out early Tuesday, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The blaze appeared to have started just after the building was showered with sparks from fireworks set off during Lunar New Year celebrations, Xinhua said. A handful of other firefighters were injured along with a worker for China Central Television, it said.

Female suicide bomber kills 24 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A suspected Tamil Tiger rebel who pretended to be a war refugee blew herself up Monday as Sri Lankan soldiers frisked her at a checkpoint. Twenty troops and eight civilians died. State TV showed the carnage after the suicide bombing in Vishwamadu, a northeastern town where hundreds of civilians had been waiting to be sent to refugee camps: a woman in a blue dress curled up in the fetal position, her face and neck spattered with blood; plastic lawn chairs upended and piled in a jumble from the force of the blast. A soldier briskly picked up a dead child who was sprawled face down in the dirt, yellow shorts peeping out from beneath her bloodstained pink-and-purple dress. He dropped her rag-doll body on top of another corpse in a truck, leaving their bloodied, bare feet jutting out the back. The footage, released by the government, did not show the bodies of any soldiers.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Argentine seminary ousts Holocaust-denying bishop

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The bishop whose rehabilitation by the Vatican sparked outrage because of his denials of the Holocaust has been removed as the head of an Argentine seminary, his superiors said Monday. The ultraconservative Society of St. Pius X, which is trying to reconcile with the Vatican, announced it had dismissed British Bishop Richard Williamson as director of the La Reja seminary and distanced itself from his views. Williamson's views about the Holocaust created an uproar last month when Pope Benedict XVI lifted his excommunication and that of three other bishops consecrated by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. Lefebvre founded the Society of St. Pius X in 1969 in opposition to the liberalizing reforms of the Second Vatican Council, particularly its outreach to Jews. In an interview broadcast Jan. 21, Williamson told Swedish state TV that no Jews were gassed during the Holocaust and only 200,000 to 300,000 were killed, not 6 million.

Poland puts beheading blame on Pakistani govt

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland promised Monday to issue international arrest warrants for Taliban militants after the apparent beheading of a Polish engineer in Pakistan, and officials charged that elements within the Pakistani government shared blame for the killing. Pakistan's top diplomat in Poland firmly rejected the accusation that some members of the Islamabad government are sympathetic to Islamic extremists, saying his country is snarled in a bitter fight with terrorist groups that is killing many of its own. Without a body, Polish authorities were not able to officially confirm the death of Piotr Stanczak, but they said a seven-minute video purporting to show the 42-year-old's slaying appeared authentic. Copies of the video were delivered to journalists in Pakistan on Sunday. Foreign Minister Radek Sikorski condemned the apparent killing as a "bestial execution" and said the government would issue arrest warrants for the culprits.

Mexican drug violence spills over into the US

Just as government officials had feared, the drug violence raging in Mexico is spilling over into the United States. U.S. authorities are reporting a spike in killings, kidnappings and home invasions connected to Mexico's murderous cartels. And to some policymakers' surprise, much of the violence is happening not in towns along the border, where it was assumed the bloodshed would spread, but a considerable distance away, in places such as Phoenix and Atlanta. Investigators fear the violence could erupt elsewhere around the country because the Mexican cartels are believed to have set up drug-dealing operations all over the U.S., in such far-flung places as Anchorage, Alaska; Boston; and Sioux Falls, S.D. "The violence follows the drugs," said David Cuthbertson, agent in charge of the FBI's office in the border city of El Paso, Texas. ***(AP)***

Italian woman in right-to-die debate dies

ROME (AP)—A 38-year-old woman who ignited a fierce right-to-die debate that convulsed Italy and dragged in the Vatican died Monday just as lawmakers in Parliament rushed to pass a bill designed to keep her alive.

Eluana Englaro had been in a vegetative state since she was in a car accident 17 years ago. She died Monday night at the Udine clinic where she had been for the past week, said family attorney Vittorio Angiolini.

"Yes, she has left us," the ANSA news agency quoted her father, Beppino Englaro, as saying. "But I don't want to say anything, I just want to be alone."

Englaro's doctors had said her condition was irreversible. Late last year, her father won a decade-long court battle to allow her feeding tube to be removed, saying that was her wish. In line with the high court ruling, medical workers on Friday began suspending her food and water.

But Italy's center-right government, backed by the Vatican, had pressed to keep her alive, racing against time to pass legislation prohibiting food and water from being suspended for patients who depend on them.

Senators who had just begun debating the bill observed a minute of silence Monday night when the news of her death was read out in the Senate chamber.

Government officials vowed to pass the legislation even though it was too late to save Englaro.

"I hope the Senate can proceed on the established calendar so that this sacrifice wasn't completely in vain," Health Minister Maurizio Sacconi told the Senate minutes after the death was announced.

Even if the bill had been passed in time, it wasn't clear that it would have kept Englaro alive. Alessandro Pace, constitutional law professor at Rome University, said the law couldn't have been applied to Englaro because of previous court rulings allowing her feeding tube to be removed.

AP

A man kneels in prayer inside the Basilica of San Nicolo' in Lecco, northern Italy, after the announcement of the death of Eluana Englaro, a woman in vegetative state for 17 years, Monday, Feb. 9, 2009.

Englaro's case bitterly divided Italy, with proponents on both sides of the right-to-die debate staging daily demonstrations outside the Udine clinic in northeast Italy and politicians hurling insults against each other. Pope Benedict XVI spoke out several times in the past week about the dignity of every human life.

"May the Lord welcome her and pardon those who brought her to this point," ANSA quoted Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, the Vatican's top health official, as saying. But he ruled out excommunicating those involved in suspending Englaro's food and water.

Italy does not allow euthanasia but patients have a right to refuse treatment. There is no law, however, that allows patients to give advance directions on what treatment they want if they become too incapacitated to state their wishes.

Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said he hoped that Englaro's case would become a point of reference for reflection about how to accompany "the weakest in the necessary respect for the right to life."

Citing records from the clinic, ANSA said Englaro died of cardiac arrest.

Opponents of letting Englaro die immediately called for an autopsy. "This sudden death, when just this morning the experts said her conditions were stable, is perplexing," said Dr. Gianluigi Gigli, a neurologist at the University of Udine who had supported the government's efforts to keep her alive.

Suicide attack kills 4 US soldiers in Mosul

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide car bomber struck a U.S. patrol in northern Iraq on Monday, killing four American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter in the deadliest single attack against U.S. forces in nine months.

The blast occurred as U.S. vehicles were passing near an Iraqi police checkpoint in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city and the last major urban battleground in the war against al-Qaida and other Sunni insurgents.

American casualties have fallen to some of their lowest levels of the war since thousands of Sunnis abandoned the insurgency and U.S. and Iraqi forces routed Shiite militias in Baghdad and Basra last spring. Only five of the 16 U.S. service members who died in Iraq last month were killed in action.

However, fighting continues in Mosul and elsewhere in northern Iraq—a conflict which U.S. officials say is driven in part by ethnic rivalries between Sunni Arabs and Kurds. Many Sunni extremists are believed to have fled north after being driven from longtime strongholds in Baghdad and central Iraq.

A U.S. statement said three U.S. soldiers were killed at the scene of Monday's attack. A fourth soldier and the interpreter died of wounds at a military hospital, the U.S. said.

An Iraqi police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release the information, said two Iraqi policemen and one civilian were wounded.

It was the deadliest single attack against U.S. troops since May 2, 2008, when four Marines were killed in a roadside bombing in Anbar province, a former insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad.

Four U.S. soldiers were killed Jan. 26 when two helicopters collided in the air near the northern city of Kirkuk, but U.S. officials said the crash did not appear a result of hostile fire.

Khatami energizes Iran's ailing reformist camp

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The battered reformist movement was energized with hopes of a political comeback Monday after their most powerful advocate, Mohammad Khatami, entered the race for president, a match up one liberal Web site predicted would be "an Armageddon between reformists and hardliners."

Khatami, who was president from 1997-2005 and previously expressed reluctance to run again, is seen by many reformists as their white knight, the only candidate with a real chance of beating hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Supporters see the cleric, whose calls for better ties with the West provides a stark contrast to Ahmadinejad's tough rhetoric, as warming U.S.-Iranian ties, even opening a dialogue with Barack Obama.

But Khatami, who announced his candidacy Sunday, faces a tough campaign. Reformists are divided, and the ruling religious establishment backs the current president.

Ahmadinejad is believed to be vulnerable in the June elections because of public anger over issues including fuel shortages, inflation and his confrontational stances toward the West. But few saw any candidate with the stature to defeat him.

A match-up between him and Khatami, however, transforms the race into a real competition. One reformist Web site, Asr-e Iran, said Khatami's entrance could "polarize" the campaign and turn it into "an Armageddon between reformists and hard-liners."

Supporters believe the charismatic Khatami can turn around the disillusionment that has dragged down the movement for years. In recent years, many pro-reform voters have stayed away from the polls because of hardliners' powers to bar their candidates from running.

Israeli voters cast ballots in general election

JERUSALEM (AP)—Voters braved poor weather in Jerusalem and other parts of Israel Tuesday to cast their ballots in a general election pitting conservative former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu against Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni.

Most of the country's 9,263 polling stations opened as scheduled at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT, 12 a.m. EST), national election official Benny Lahav told Israel Radio.

Opinion polls for months have predicted a decisive victory by Netanyahu's Likud Party, but new polls released over the weekend showed Livni's Kadima Party closing the gap. Netanyahu opposes giving up land in the name of peace, while Livni is a centrist who hopes to become the country's first female leader in nearly 40 years.

Neither is expected to get more than 30 seats in the 120-seat parliament, however, meaning the winner will likely have to form a coalition with smaller parties.

A fractious coalition could complicate efforts to create a Palestinian state and pose big challenges for President Barack Obama, who has made achieving Middle East peace a top priority.

Campus Life

The Men's Project: Stepping up to the plate

Head Start's Fatherhood and Male Involvement Committee is inviting all parents, staff and community partners to participate in its activities during the month of February, which has been proclaimed as the "Fatherhood and Male Involvement Month."

The proclamation signing was held Jan. 29, at the Tanapag Head Start and was signed by Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez.

Throughout the month of February, fathers and other males involved in the lives of Head Start children are welcome to take part in classroom activities by being a volunteer, observer, or celebrity reader!

On Feb. 13, Head Start will host A Valentine Walk at 5pm along the Beach Road pathway from the Saipan Fishing Base to the National Office Supply and back. Registration begins at 4pm.

This will be followed by a beach cleanup activity called "Families for the Environment" on Feb. 21, 2009, from 9am to 11am at Micro Beach.

Feb. 26 is "Man, It's Your Turn To Read!" during which fathers and other males are invited to read to their children. This activity will be from 6pm to 7pm at every Head Start classroom. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lt. Gov. Timothy Villagomez signs the proclamation declaring February as the "Fatherhood and Male Involvement Month." The signing ceremony was held at the Tanapag Head Start on Jan. 29, 2009.

Golden Harvest students shine at Math Court

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School students that participated in the Math Court Competition held on Jan. 31, 2009, at Dandan Elementary School have their picture taken.

Golden Harvest International School had again a bountiful harvest during the Math Court Competition held Saturday, Jan. 31, 2009, at Dandan Elementary School. Below are the winners bringing home the first, second, third, and fourth place wins. Congratulations!

GEOMETRY/ MEASUREMENT

Advance Kinder-5
Uzziel Cobacha, 1st place
Aldraine Galang, 2nd place
Holly Liban 3rd place
Daphne Cruzat, 3rd place

First grade
Kennedy Vila, 1st place

Second grade
Alfie Madlambayan, 1st place
Giselle Ivy Leong, 2nd place
Corin Mercado, 2nd place

Third grade
Francheska Fauni, 1st place
Geuel Christian Villacrusis, 2nd place
Stephen Seth Alonzo, 2nd place
Emmanuel Cobacha, 3rd place

Fourth grade
Isa Belle Seman, 1st place
Tiffany Madlambayan, 1st place

DATA/ STATISTICS/ PROBABILITY

Advance Kinder-5
Holly Liban 2nd place
Renz Guiller Fauni, 2ndplace

First grade
Kennedy Villa, 2nd

Second grade
Allan Tzady Calangi, 2nd place
Alfie Madlambayan 2nd place
Giselle Ivy Leong, 3rd place

Third grade
Francheska Fauni, 1st place
Christian Geuel Villacrusis, 4th place

Coordinator and Trainer:
Adelaida M. Lim

Trainer:
Bona Vargas and Imelda Bautista

Principal:
Rosita A. Tejada

IN PROFILE: MARIA CASTRO

Mother of three goes back to college

Maria Castro is a mother of three kids who always wanted to pursue her studies. After years of devoting time for her family, she enrolled at Northern Marianas College with her son. The mother-and-son tandem is a unique experience for NMC. Serving as an inspiration to many on campus, the mother-cum-student shares her thoughts about family and education.

Question: What motivated you to continue and pursue a college degree despite being a mother of three?
Answer: My motivation was my children. I was compelled to further my education because I needed to be compatible with my kids' work. As a mother of a three, I wanted to ensure that when my children leave their classroom and come home, they can depend on me to aid them with the information they need to satisfactorily complete their school task. Being a parent is one of the hardest jobs, but it is also the most rewarding. I see the rewards in my children when they excel in school.

Question: Are there any notable or remarkable experiences that you will never forget during your days in school?
Answer: I enjoy my classes at NMC, and my most notable experiences were the knowledge and skills I gained from taking Rik Villegas' and Wil Maui's (instructors in the Business Department) classes. I really enjoyed Principles of Customer Service and Introduction to Macro & Micro Economics taught by Will Maui. NMC's Student Support Services Program also provided me with tools/materials and supplies and services to help me reach my goal. The SSS Program has many wonderful tutors that assist students with their classes.

Question: What specific adjustments did you do to accomplish these two tasks—as a mother and as a regular student?
Answer: It was not easy being a full-time mom and a full-time student, but when you set your priorities and manage your time well, nothing is impossible. I took classes that did not conflict with my kids' schedules. As a mother, my children are my first priority, so my schoolwork are taken cared of when the kids are put to bed.

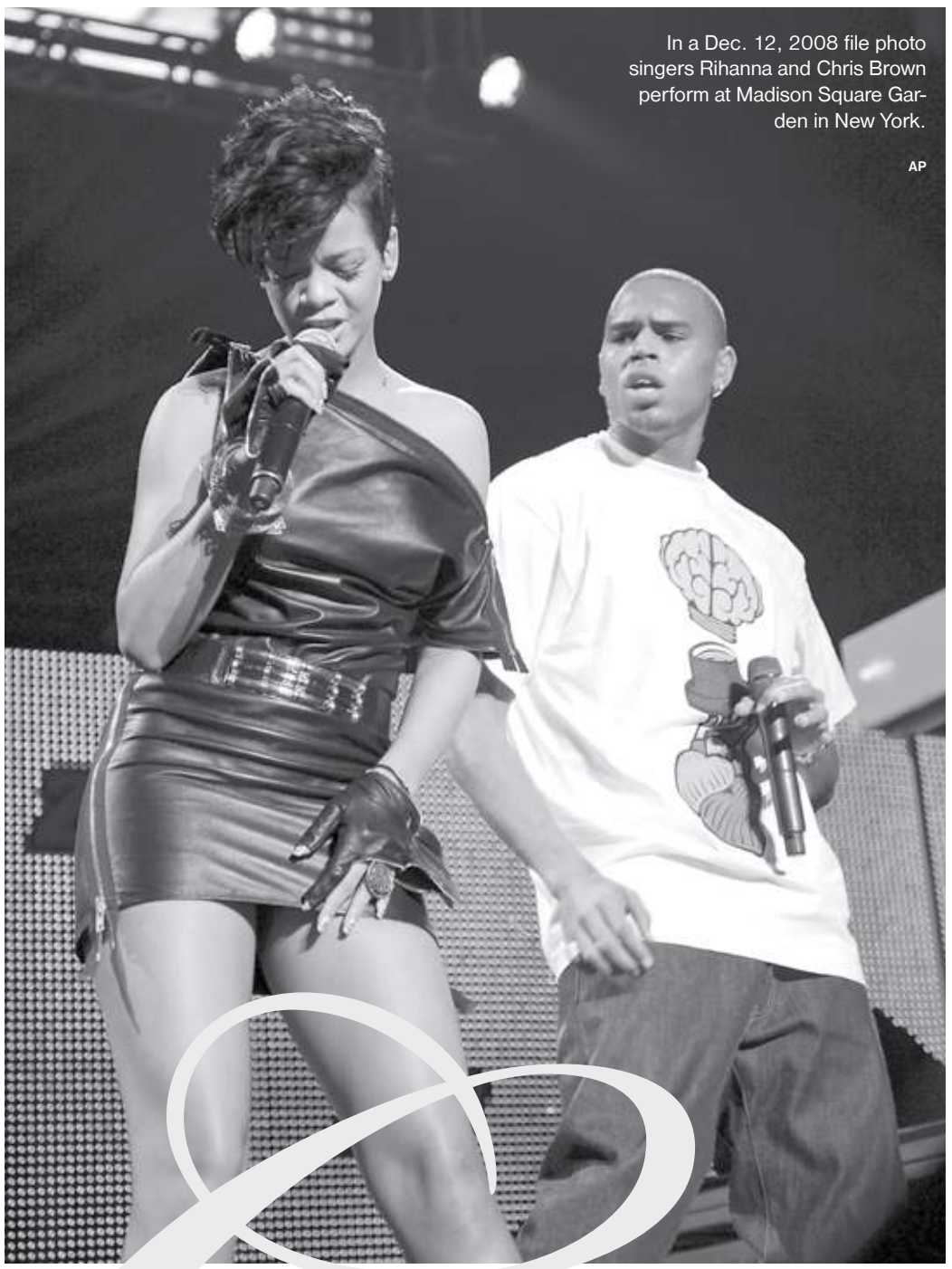
Question: How did your family react to the idea of you going back to the classroom?
Answer: At first, my kids thought I was joking when I told them I was taking classes at NMC. My son, who is now in college, was worried about what his friends will think, so I told him that being in college with him should not interfere with his goals. I told him to stay focused on his goals, as I will with mine.

Question: What are your plan after getting your degree?
Answer: I will use my degree to find a job in the management field.

Question: The greatest advantage you get from your education?
Answer: Acquiring new information and skills is a great asset to have; everyday we learn something new, and one great way to advance your skills and abilities is through education. Now, I am more confident in myself and am happy when I am able to help my kids with their schoolwork, most especially when I see good progress in their report cards.

Life & Style

Reports: Police officials say Rihanna was victim



In a Dec. 12, 2008 file photo singers Rihanna and Chris Brown perform at Madison Square Garden in New York.

AP

Chris Brown's ad campaign with Wrigley was suspended Monday until his criminal case is resolved, and reports surfaced that pop superstar Rihanna, his longtime girlfriend and a fellow no-show at the Grammy Awards, was the woman who accused him of assault.

The *Los Angeles Times*, citing law enforcement officials familiar with the case and other sources it did not name, reported that Rihanna, whose full name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty, was the woman who told police that Brown had hurt her the night before the Grammy Awards.

A police statement released Sunday afternoon said Brown and an unidentified woman began arguing while riding in a car following a pre-Grammy party where they were spotted together Saturday night. The fight escalated when they got out of the car in the ritzy Hancock Park neighborhood, the report said, and Brown was gone by the time officers arrived.

The report indicated that the woman was injured, but Brown was booked only on suspicion of making a criminal threat, a felony, after walking into a police station Sunday night. Authorities said the district attorney could choose to expand the charges.

Los Angeles Police Chief William Bratton said he expects detectives to present their case to prosecutors in the next day or so. He added Brown received no special considerations before his arrest or when he was booked. "We dealt with him like we deal with everybody else," Bratton said.

Brown was released after posting $50,000 bail. Both he and Rihanna had backed out of their scheduled performances at the Grammy Awards, where producers scrambled to fill their slots.

Several celebrity Web sites such as TMZ.com, Radaronline.com, Us Weekly and People, citing sources neither named nor characterized, also reported that Rihanna was the woman involved. The Los Angeles Police Department would not confirm the reports, citing state laws that protect the identity of abuse victims.

Rihanna's publicist declined to say why the singer did not appear, and Brown's representatives also refused to discuss the allegations or his arrest. Repeated phone and e-mail messages left beginning Sunday night with Brown's attorney, Mark Geragos, were not returned Monday.

Wrigley said in a statement Monday that it was suspending its ad campaigns featuring Chris Brown as its spokesman for Doublemint gum until the situation was resolved, but stopped short of saying they will drop the troubled R&B star completely.

A company statement expresses concern about "serious allegations made against Chris Brown," but added that the 19-year-old should be "afforded the same due process as any citizen." ***(AP)***

Brown's squeaky clean image falters

LOS ANGELES (AP)—At this point, Chris Brown would have been better off getting caught with a bong.

At least then, the scandal enveloping his white-hot career could have been dismissed by some as a youthful indiscretion.

But Brown's arrest in connection with an alleged assault of a woman has potentially devastating implications for the 19-year-old heartthrob because it unravels the charming, wholesome image that fans know and love.

"If it's true, his career is probably over," said Billboard magazine's editorial director, Bill Werde, although he cautioned that "it's important to withhold judgment until all of the facts are known."

On a night in which Brown was supposed to deliver a prime-time Grammy performance, he was instead being processed in a Los Angeles police station on a charge connected to an alleged assault on a woman reports have identified as Rihanna, the 20-year-old pop princess. Brown was booked on a suspicion of making a criminal threat after he and a woman had an argument that escalated into a fight in a ritzy Los Angeles neighborhood, according to police; Rihanna and Brown pulled out of the Grammys hours before the Sunday telecast.

Brown nor his representatives have made statements about the case, and the only comment Rihanna's publicist has made was to say that the statuesque star was doing "well."

Already there was immediate fallout from Brown's arrest, with Wrigley stopping all ad and marketing campaigns tied to Brown, who had been their Doublemint gum pitchman.

"Wrigley is concerned by the serious allegations made against Chris Brown. We believe Mr. Brown should be afforded the same due process as any citizen," the company said in a statement. "However, we have made the decision to suspend the current advertising featuring Brown and any related marketing communications until the matter is resolved."

Brown rose to fame as a sweet-faced, 16-year-old with an engaging voice and amazing dance skills with the 2005 smash hit "Run It!" Since then, his popularity has mushroomed; he's been featured in movies such as dance flick "Stomp the Yard," had top-selling tours and a string of hits, including "Forever" and "No Air" with Jordin Sparks, for which he was nominated for a Grammy on Sunday.

He was named Billboard's top artist for 2008 and won three American Music Awards last fall, including artist of the year.

Rihanna's star is just as bright. The pop singer had one of 2007's most popular songs with "Umbrella" and the string of hits has not stopped: She has a Top 10 Billboard pop hit right now with "Live Your Life" with T.I. and a few others still on the charts.

Her stunning looks have made the Barbados native a cover girl for magazines, as well as a pitchwoman for Cover Girl cosmetics.

The pair started dating about a year ago, and while they never officially confirmed their romance, they were often spotted together, cuddling or holding hands.

Tracey Ford, the editor of AOL Music's hip-hop/R&B site, TheBoombox.com, said fans are shocked over the allegations, adding that Brown's career has been centered around his "squeaky clean image.

"I don't think anyone saw this coming."

Perhaps the most recent pop star to face a legal crisis was Brown's record-label mate, R. Kelly, who was charged, and later acquitted, of child-pornography charges. He continued a multiplatinum career even as the legal saga dragged through the courts for years.

But Kelly never had a wholesome image and built much of his career on coarse sexual songs.

Brown, on the other hand, has been pitched at a teen idol who, while having considerable sex appeal, is still ultimately safe. He's recently been nominated for Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards and last December was the headliner at a concert thrown by New York radio station Z100. Geared mainly toward squealing teens, he drew ear-piercing shrieks as he closed out the concert, a gig that featured a cameo appearance by Rihanna.

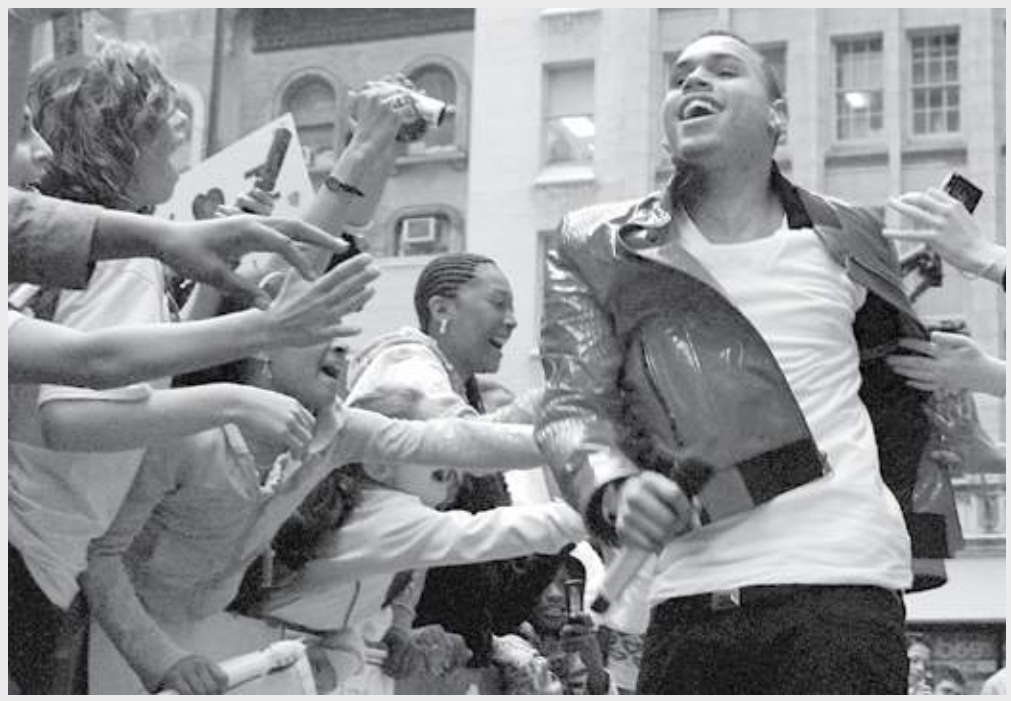
Ford said it was "it's really too early to tell at this point" what will happen with his career.

"He certainly missed an opportunity last night at the Grammys to take his career to the next level," she said. "I'm not sure whether or not it's going to completely hurt him yet."

Brown was near the end of promoting his platinum-selling "Exclusive" CD and was concentrating on filming movies.

As for Rihanna, she will likely emerge from the incident with more fans, and sympathy, Ford said.

"It might actually help Rihanna, to a certain extent," she said. "She's definitely being viewed as the victim at this point."



AP

In this June 6, 2008 file photo, the audience reaches out to touch singer Chris Brown during his appearance on the NBC "Today" television program, in New York's Rockefeller Center.

Calif. artist sues AP over image of Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—An artist who created a famous image of Barack Obama before he became president sued The Associated Press on Monday, asking a judge to find that his use of an AP photo in creating the poster did not violate copyright law.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan said street artist Shepard Fairey did not violate the copyright of the April 2006 photograph because he dramatically changed the nature of the image.

The AP has said it is owed credit and compensation for the artist's rendition of the picture, taken by Mannie Garcia on assignment for the AP at the National Press Club in Washington.

Lawyers for Fairey acknowledged that the artist used the photograph. But they said he transformed the literal depiction into a "stunning, abstracted and idealized visual image that creates powerful new meaning and conveys a radically different message."

AP spokesman Paul Colford said the AP was "disappointed by the surprise filing."

He said in a statement that the AP had agreed last week not to take legal action while it was in settlement talks, but that Fairey's attorney broke off contact Friday.

Colford said the AP had indicated that any settlement would benefit a charitable fund that supports AP journalists worldwide who suffer personal loss from natural disasters and conflicts.

"AP believes it is crucial to protect photographers, who are creators and artists. Their work should not be misappropriated by others," Colford said.

The AP has not taken legal action against Fairey. But his lawsuit noted that the AP had threatened twice to sue Fairey, possibly as early as Tuesday, and that it considered all works that incorporate the imagery of the "Obama Hope" poster to be infringements of its copyrights.

Fairey

The lawsuit said the purpose of the photograph documented the day's events while Fairey's art, titled "Obama Progress" and "Obama Hope," was meant "to inspire, convince and convey the power of Obama's ideals, as well as his potential as a leader, through graphic metaphor."

Fairey's image became popular on buttons, posters and Web sites. It showed a pensive Barack Obama looking upward. It was splashed in a Warholesque red, white and blue and underlined with the caption HOPE.

The lawsuit noted that Fairey first began distributing his Obama images in early 2008 and that Obama thanked him in a Feb. 22 letter for his contribution to the presidential campaign.

When asked Monday about AP's position, Fairey said: "It's a suppression of an artist's freedom of expression." His attorney advised him not to say anything else.

The lawsuit was brought on Fairey's behalf by the Stanford Law School's Fair Use Project and a San Francisco-based law firm.

"There should be no doubt about the legality of Fairey's work," said Anthony Falzone, executive director of the Fair Use Project. "He used the photograph for a purpose entirely different than the original, and transformed it dramatically."

The lawsuit was filed on the same day that Fairey appeared in two different Boston courtrooms, where he pleaded not guilty to charges he tagged property with graffiti.

He allegedly vandalized a Massachusetts Turnpike Authority building last month as part of one of his street art campaigns. Fairey also pleaded not guilty Monday to a charge of placing a poster on a Boston electrical box in September 2000. Boston police said he had failed to appear in court in the 9-year-old case days after his arrest.

The 38-year-old Los Angeles resident was arrested Friday when he was in Boston for an event kicking off his exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art. At the time of the arrest, detectives were aware that Fairey had failed to appear in court in 2000, said Jake Wark, a spokesman for the Suffolk County district attorney's office.

Fairey was ordered to return to court on the Boston charges for pre-trial hearings on March 10 and 11.

Book publisher chided for selling toys in book clubs

NEW YORK (AP)—Scholastic Corp., the U.S. publisher of the Harry Potter books, has come under criticism from a children's advocacy group for using its vast, venerable network of school-based book clubs to market toys and other non-educational items such as video games to lip gloss.

The world's largest publisher and distributor of children's books, Scholastic earned nearly $337 million last year from the book clubs, which it inaugurated in 1948. The company estimates that three-quarters of U.S. elementary school teachers—and more than 2.2 million children—participate annually in the clubs.

Over the decades, the program has won praise for encouraging children to read by offering discounted books which they order through their teacher, who in turn can qualify for further deals on books and other classroom materials.

However, the Boston-based Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood—a national coalition of educators, health care professionals and parents—launched a protest campaign Monday asserting that Scholastic has exploited its unique access to schools by marketing an array of non-book products in its monthly book club fliers.

Items pitched to elementary school students in the last 14 months include M&M's Kart Racing Wii video game, an American Idol event planner, the SpongeBob SquarePants Monopoly computer game, lip gloss rings, Nintendo's Baby Pals video game, Hannah Montana posters and the Spy Master Voice Disguiser.

The campaign said about one-third of the items for sale in Scholastic's elementary and middle school book clubs were either not books or were books packaged with other items such as jewelry, toys and makeup. The group is running an e-mail campaign to urge Scholastic officials to make changes.

"The opportunity to sell directly to children in schools is a privilege, not a right," said the campaign's director, psychologist Susan Linn. "But Scholastic is abusing that privilege by flooding classrooms across the country with ads for toys, trinkets, and electronic media with little or no educational value."

Jessica Biel hosts sci-tech Oscars

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Host Jessica Biel wore Oscar de la Renta, but it was bearded, buttoned-down Pixar co-founder Ed Catmull who got whoops and whistles at the first Academy Awards presentation of the year.

Attendees yelled and stood for Catmull, president of Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios, as he accepted an Oscar statuette Saturday night for a lifetime of work in computer animation. He said he was inspired by early Disney films "Peter Pan" and "Pinocchio," then name-dropped collaborators George Lucas, Steve Jobs and Pixar chief creative officer John Lasseter.

"In each of the communities that I've been in, we know that when we make the movies look good, we make each other look good," Catmull said. "It's really been a great adventure."

Pixar celebrates its 23rd birthday this year and is set to release "Up"—its 10th feature—in May. Its "WALL-E" is favored to win the animated feature category at the main Oscars ceremony Feb. 22.

Nine other men were honored at the annual scientific and technical awards ceremony, which put a spotlight on the geekier side of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Biel, who was not accompanied by boyfriend Justin Timberlake, picked her way through tricky jargon like "anamorphic de-squeezers" and got cheek-peck greetings from European honorees.

In Loving Memory Of

Margarita Cepeda Mendiola Sablan

October 07, 1931 - February 06, 2009

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children:
Lydia M. Sablan: Ann Melisa & Jeffery Babauta (Darwin, Jennalyd, Jeffery Jr.), Adrian, Alvin & Anita Sablan (Mathew)
Evelyn & Bertran Torres: Sylvestre & Roselaine Torres (Domingo [Daimian], Virginia [Jaydin], Christine, TriniRose,Tonisha, Hannah), Glenn Torres & June Bunag (Janalenn, Glenn Jr., Jerome, Sandra, Jenna), Jack Walter (Jeremy, Tiana), Carolyn Torres & Darren Siongco (Simon, Shane, Dylan, Deanna, Deysha) Bert, Mark, Kelvin.
MaryLee M. Sablan: Tina & Ken Camacho (Marlee [Kashius], Felisha, Courtney, Vincent, KC), Janice & Raymond Villagomez (Kaelani, JV), Vincent Attao & Doraine Camacho (Rohnessa), Carlynn Attao & Andrew Sablan (Leeandra, Shawn, Jesse), Allen Attao & Melanie Sibetang, (Reinalyn, AJ, Allani, Vicente), Jack & Renae M. Attao (Gregory, Janae, Jaycine, Jack Jr.), Hermy M. Sablan, Tyrone Attao (TJ, Vicente), Franny Attao & Jervy Babauta (Franishia)
Anicia & Diego Sasamoto: Diane & Vince Eugenio (Vincent Jr., Alvince), Elaine & Robert Villaluz (Jacquelyn, Cali, Kaori, Bane)
Joseph & Marian Sablan: Allen & Jennifer Sablan (Geneviene, RJ), Kim & Norris Kwon (Taejun, Ethan, Kivisa) Franklin, Curtis, Paul & Nadia Murphy (Hadasa), Le'ah, Tessa Jo.
Josephine & Antonio Rabago: Sharen Rabago & Donald Teregeyo (AJ, Darren, Nicolas), Phillip Rabago & Jeanella Baumert (Isa, Napu, Cristobal); Richard & Lori Warnick (Christy, Jozie), Glenn Rabago & Sherwin Mendiola (Eugene, Antoine, Alton)
Merced & Paul Hattori: Sharlyn, Marilyn, Jocelyn & Ray Mesgnon (Nathaniel), Wlliam Jr., Paul Joaquin
Viola & Juan DLGuerrero: Connita & Frankie Camacho, Jonakin, Viola Marie
Joaquin Jr. & Josepha Chong Sablan: Stephanie Margaret, Jack Joseph
Daughter in law: Diana C. Villigomaez
Son in law: William A. Cachero
Caregiver: Fely Lumada
Sister & Spouse: Antonia D. and Orly Jusi
Sister-in-law: Justina R. Demapan, Ana S. Tudela
Brother-in-law: Jose B. Tudela

In her death, she now joins her:
Parents: Jose Mesngon Mendiola, Pedro Borja and Maria Cepeda Demapan
Parents in-law: Joaquin San Nicolas Sablan and Heronima Salas Torres
Brothers : Jesus Pedro Cepeda Demapan and Luis Cepeda Demapan
Brothers –in-law & Spouses: Vicente P. and Josepha R. Sablan, Sylvestre T. and Maria R. Sablan, Eulogio T. and Rosa S., Antonia P. Sablan, Gregorio T. and Rosa I. Sablan, Nicolas T. and Josepha C. Sablan
Sister-in-law & Spouse: Teresa S. and Bernardo Guerrero
Sister-in-law: Matilde S. Tudela
Brother-in-law: Roman M. Tudela

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00 A.M., nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00 P.M. at San Jose Church.

Her remains will be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral at 7:00 A.M. on Saturday February 14, 2009. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 A.M. followed by Internment at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

Please join us in prayers.
Thank You and Si Yu'us Maase

The Children and Familes

Chris Evans is a homebody on a scifi tour

By ALICIA LOZANO
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Spending three months in Hong Kong shooting the frenetic science-fiction thriller "Push" was more difficult than Chris Evans expected.

There's the fact that he doesn't speak the language or even particularly like Chinese food. Then, as the film's lead, he worked almost every day while his co-stars, including 14-year-old Dakota Fanning, were free to sample the electric city vibe and travel the country's scenic landscapes. But the worst of it was that he was separated from his beloved American bulldog, East, who normally hangs around on-set with Evans as he works.

"Look at that guy!" he said, whipping out his BlackBerry at a San Fernanco Valley restaurant and thumbing through photo after photo of the white hound like a proud new father. "He's the greatest thing in the world!"

Evans' bright green eyes light up any time he can talk about his pal East and the Boston Celtics. Even though he has spent the last 10 years warming up to young Hollywood, he's still the kind of guy who tools around town wearing a black baseball cap and hoodie and who would prefer watching a Celtics game at home than hanging with Hollywood hipsters.

Growing up in a Boston suburb, he didn't spend his time reading comic books or consuming science-fiction novels and films, so who would have guessed he'd build such a formidable resume in the genre that failed to capture his imagination as a child?

And yet, a decade after moving to Los Angeles, the gregarious 27-year-old—best known for burning up the screen as Johnny Storm in 20th Century Fox's "Fantastic Four" franchise—is starring in yet another sci-fi thriller, this time as the telekinetic Nick Gant, a "mover," in the argot of the film, who grudgingly joins a rogue group of expat psychic warriors united in bringing down a shadowy military agency attempting to harvest their abilities for supernatural warfare.

In "Push," which opened in theaters Friday, Evans' character can move things with his mind. It was a new skill to master for the reluctant action hero, who has burst into flames as the Human Torch and raced to save the planet in Danny Boyle's underrated 2007 space odyssey, "Sunshine."

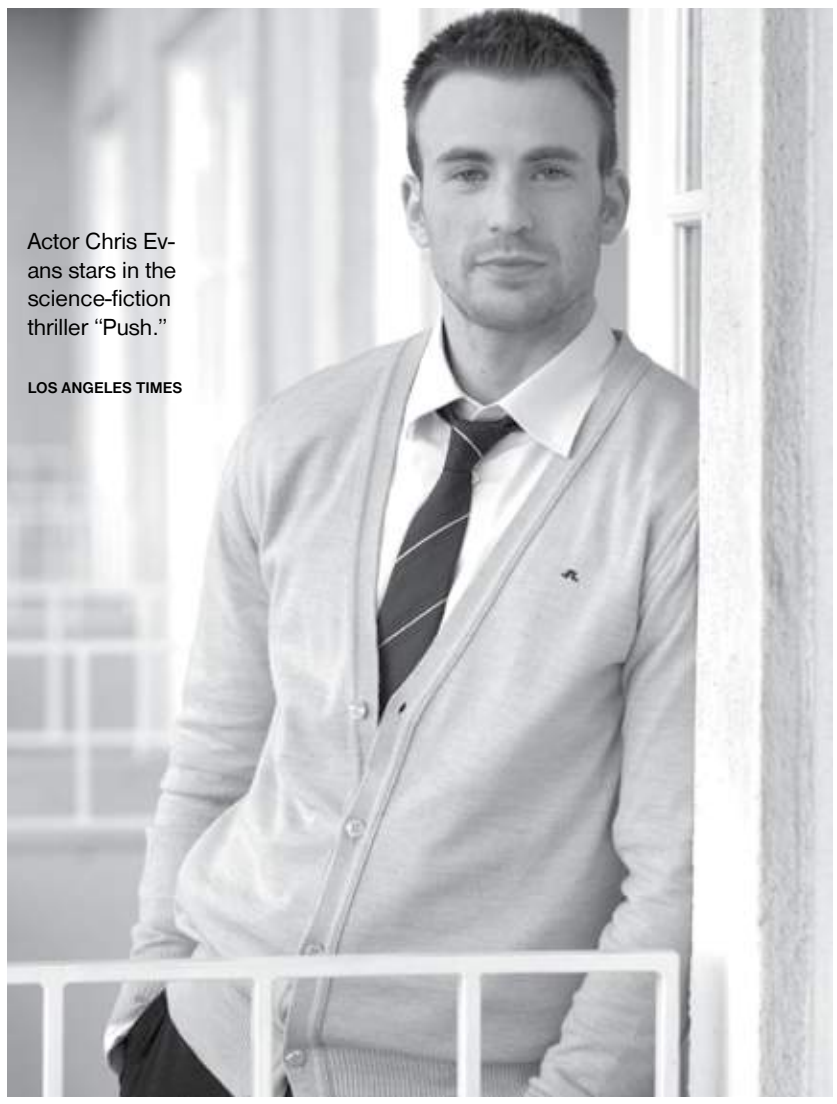
Working with Boyle, whose unexpected hit "Slumdog Millionaire" propelled the Irish director to the top of Hollywood's most-wanted list, made boarding a soundstage spaceship seem less ridiculous to the would-be thespian (Evans studied theater in high school and moved to New York in search of the stage right after graduation). "Whether he's making a movie or wants to handle my finances, I'd be like, 'All right, I trust him,' the actor said of Boyle.

When Evans learned that Fanning had signed on to co-star in "Push" as a clairvoyant runaway, he brushed off all sci-fi fatigue and got to work. "It's humbling to meet someone who was born in the '90s—the '90s!—who has a more sophisticated vocabulary than you do," he marveled. "She's like 34. I want to see her ID."

But he still cringes over his time in Hong Kong in the fall. He missed his dog and had to spend his downtime in a tiny wagon-sized Chinese trailer rather than the standard Hollywood accommodations.

And just before the "Push" shoot, he'd spent three months in Louisiana filming Tennessee Williams' "The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond," in which he plays Jimmy, a down-and-out urchin who captures the heart of reclusive debutante Fisher Willow (Bryce Dallas Howard from "Spider-Man 3"). Although he always has admired the Southern playwright, spending so much time away from home on back-to-back projects really took it out of him.

"Sometimes you would be sitting in those little buses losing your mind," he said. "It felt like work." Then he realized that even with the inconveniences, he still has it pretty good. "I'm splitting hairs. I'm still making movies."



Actor Chris Evans stars in the science-fiction thriller "Push."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Kate Winslett received a lead actress nomination for her role in "The Reader."

LOS ANGELES TIMES

'Road' may have been better path to Oscar

By MARY MCNAMARA
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Now that the Oscar nominations are out, let us tear ourselves away from that wacky Benjamin Button and consider instead the Curious Case of Kate Winslet, who cannot seem to catch a break.

Certainly, she is one of the finest actors of her generation. Over the years, she has made many brave—and a few misguided—choices, but no matter the venue, her performance was invariably terrific.

Winslet is one of those rare performers who is not shy about voicing her desire for an Oscar. Not only did she appear in an episode of "Extras" as herself starring in a Holocaust movie because she believed that would bring a statue home, she then starred in a Holocaust movie! Which earned her an Oscar nomination!

So you would think the signs were good that Winslet would finally break her five-time losing streak. And yet...

"Revolutionary Road," her pet project with beloved co-star and friend Leonardo DiCaprio and husband-director Sam Mendes, and the film for which she won a Golden Globe for lead actress in a drama, was ignored by the academy. Instead, her lead actress nomination came for "The Reader," in which she plays an unrepentant former Nazi who has an affair with a callow high school student. Not exactly the type of role the academy usually goes for, but then you can never underestimate the persuasive power of Harvey Weinstein, whose Weinstein Co. released the film.

It's a wonderful performance, of course, and that may be her undoing. Everyone in the academy knows she'll be nominated again. And again. And again. So, some may feel like there's still plenty of time to give Winslet her Oscar. Maybe for a character who is not a Nazi.

Meanwhile, she is not the only nominee with special considerations. The lead-actress category this year is chockablock with the sort of emotional back stories and tangled industry threads that so often influence the outcome.

There's the lovely Anne Hathaway, who had such a bad year, what with her ex-boyfriend being convicted of fraud. Hollywood has been looking for a new Julia Roberts for a while, and Hathaway certainly is a front-runner; an Oscar would solidify her potential as a serious dramatic actress. Angelina Jolie should never be underestimated. "Changeling" was directed by Clint Eastwood, who is an Oscar machine (although perhaps not so much this year), and many feel Jolie was not given her due for "A Mighty Heart." Finally, just imagine the potentially nuclear reaction that would accompany a Brad Pitt-Angelina Jolie dual victory photo.

Melissa Leo's performance in "Frozen River" was an industry favorite, and the academy occasionally likes to bestow a big honor on a first-time nominee. On the other end of the spectrum is Meryl Streep, the grande dame of American cinema who has single-handedly proved that a few well-earned wrinkles don't mean you can't do big box office.

So it's far from a sure thing for Winslet.

Sometimes in this life, talent, and the stellar body of work it produces, must be its own reward.

Nick Cannon to host 'America's Got Talent'

NEW YORK (AP)—America's got Nick Cannon as the new host of "America's Got Talent."

The musician, comedian, actor and producer will preside over the NBC talent competition series when it returns for a fourth season this summer, the network announced Monday.

Cannon

This variety show is the first of "multiple projects we are looking to do with Nick at NBC," said network chief Ben Silverman.

The versatile Cannon, 28, had his breakthrough role while still a teen on the Nickelodeon series "All That," then starred in his own MTV show, "Nick Cannon Presents Wild'n Out." He has recorded with artists including Kanye West, Mary J. Blige and Diddy.

Cannon's film appearances include "The Killing Room," "American Son" and Emilio Estevez's "Bobby," for which he was honored at the Cannes Film Festival as Breakthrough Actor of the Year.

Cannon takes over "America's Got Talent" from Jerry Springer, who announced his departure last week.

"Talent" is open to all ages and to performers of all kinds (including comedians, contortionists, jugglers and magicians, as well as singers and dancers), all competing for its $1 million prize.

In this 2007 file photo released by Victor Willis World, former Village People lead singer Victor Willis is shown in costume.

AP

Original Village People member sues new group

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The Village People's first cop wants a revamped version of the group to stop using his likeness and voice. The lawsuit filed last week in San Diego by Victor Willis claims companies continue to use his voice and picture to promote the new Village People. He is seeking at least $1 million and a judge's order that they can no longer use his image or voice.

Willis was the original police officer in the group and helped pen the Village People's greatest hits, including "Y.M.C.A" and "Macho Man."

He is suing Sixuvus Ltd., a New York company that promotes the new Village People. He's also suing the William Morris Agency as well as Can't Stop Productions—which owns the trademark to the band's name—and several venues where the new group has performed.

Phone messages and e-mail sent seeking comment from the companies were not immediately returned Monday.

Kevin Bacon touts new HBO film at DC premiere

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kevin Bacon's latest role focuses on an assignment that generally goes unnoticed—the task of a volunteer military escort.

The 50-year-old actor was in town for the D.C. premiere of his new HBO film "Taking Chance," at the Motion Picture Association of America. The film premieres Feb. 21 on HBO.

The film is based on the first-person account of Lt. Col. Michael Strobl, who escorted the remains of Lance Cpl. Chance Phelps to the Marine's hometown in Dubois, Wyo. Bacon stars as Strobl, who served as the military consultant for the film and co-wrote the screenplay.

Because of the true story behind the film, "it just feels like you're doing something that's just a little more important," Bacon said.

"When you're doing something like this which is about a real guy and a real man who was killed, and the war and the military, it just feels like it's got a little more weight," he said.

Phelps, 19, was killed while on a convoy in Iraq, two months after arriving there. After taking Phelps' remains to his hometown, Strobl wrote in his journal about the experience and the gratitude shown to him and Phelps' service by the people he encountered along the way.

Strobl, now a Pentagon defense analyst, said the military escort reflects the notion that service members are never alone.

"They weren't alone when they were fighting and they shouldn't be alone in their final trip home," Strobl said.

Bacon's role as Strobl follows his portrayal as another real-life Marine officer, Col. Jack Brennan in the 2008 Oscar-nominated film "Frost/Nixon."

The Philadelphia native's 30-year career includes "Footloose," "A Few Good Men," and "Mystic River."

Bacon took some time out to tour Ford's Theatre; he is preparing to do a Showtime series about the family of Abraham Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth.

AP

In this Nov. 1, 1980 file photo shows actress Diane Keaton, center right, with her companion, actor Warren Beatty, second left, her mother Dorothy Keaton Hall, left and father Jack Hall as they arrive at the Winter Garden Theater for the Broadway musical "42nd Street" in New York.

Diane Keaton writing memoir about her mother

NEW YORK (AP)—Diane Keaton is telling all—about her bond with her mother.

The Academy Award-winning actress, whose films include "Annie Hall" and the three "Godfather" movies, is working on a memoir—currently untitled—that the Random House Publishing Group plans on releasing in 2012.

Keaton's mother, Dorothy Keaton Hall, died last fall and had suffered from Alzheimer's. The actress began working on her book shortly after her mother's death.

Usher's wife recuperating from surgery in Brazil

NEW YORK (AP)—A representative for Usher says the singer's wife, Tameka Raymond, is recovering from surgery in Brazil. Publicist Simone Smalls says Raymond "is in stable condition after suffering complications from routine surgery in Brazil. Her husband Usher is with her at the hospital."

No further details were provided. In her statement, Smalls says "the family requests privacy at this difficult time."

Raymond was being treated at the posh Sirio-Libanes Hospital in Sao Paulo, a hospital spokeswoman confirmed Monday. She did not give her name, per hospital rules.

Usher was supposed to be one of the performers at music mogul Clive Davis' pre-Grammy party Saturday night, but he had to back out for what Davis called a serious family illness.

AP

In this Sept. 25, 2007 file photo, Grammy award winner Usher Raymond and wife his Tameka Foster mingle at a party for the unveiling of Usher's new fragrances, Usher for Men and Usher for Women, in New York.

The 30-year-old R&B star and his wife were married in August 2007. They have two young sons, 2-year-old Usher Raymond V and 2-month-old Naveid Ely Raymond.

NYC Fashion Week to move after 17 years

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Fashion Week is getting a new look.

The twice-annual event, which has been held at Bryant Park since 1993, will relocate to Lincoln Center starting in September 2010, according to a person with knowledge of the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office worked with the Council of Fashion Designers of America and IMG Fashion, which runs the shows, for more than two years to find a new location. The deal was to be announced Wednesday.

Bloomberg has long maintained that the events were outgrowing the park. It takes 10 days to erect the tents, followed by eight days of celebrity-studded shows, with five more days of cleanup.

The 6-acre Bryant Park, situated behind the New York Public Library on 42nd Street in Manhattan, has been the main home for Fashion Week, except for one season at Chelsea Piers.

Man hesitates to combat rumor mill with the truth

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have tried to have cordial relations with my neighbors, but do not have particularly close friendships with any of them.

A little over a year ago, a young man started coming to my home on a regular basis whenever my wife was out of town. After a while, he began spending the night with me when she was away.

Evidently, some of my neighbors noticed these visits and started gossiping about it, spreading the rumor that I am gay and that this young guy is my lover. More recently, however, he has spent the night when my wife is present, so now my neighbors think something kinky is going on.

At times I am puzzled by this. At other times I am angry at their arrogance and gall. The explanation is simple: The young man is my son from a previous relationship. Because we were prevented from having contact when he was a child, we are now trying to establish a relationship—and we are making progress. My wife and other children have been wonderfully supportive in all this.

I really don't want to tell my neighbors what's going on because it will inevitably lead to a disclosure of some things that are really none of their business. But I am troubled by the rumor that I have a young male lover. What do you think I should do?

I'M HIS DAD IN VIRGINIA

DEAR DAD: If you don't want to let your neighbors know the truth, then you will have to tolerate the fact that they have active imaginations and have drawn their own (mistaken) conclusions. If I were in your shoes, however, I think I'd come "out of the closet" on the paternity issue and put the gossip to rest by having your wife introduce your son around as exactly who he is.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I started working in a medical office a year ago. I handle the financial end of the practice and, because of that, I have a private office. I have six co-workers who assume that I am antisocial because I stay in my office most of the time.

When I come out to socialize, they ignore me and have given me unpleasant vibes. I tried recently to transfer to another medical office, but my boss counter-offered so that I would stay. Out of loyalty to him, I stayed.

Now I have to continue going to lunch alone and sitting in my office all day without anyone saying a word to me. What can I do to feel more accepted?

EXCLUDED IN ALABAMA

DEAR EXCLUDED: Try a little harder to integrate into the group by bringing some treats to the office for "the gang" and offering to share, or inviting them all out to lunch.

However, if that doesn't melt some ice, have a talk with the office manager because you have described a hostile work environment. If you are the office manager, then let the doctor know what's going on. There are steps your boss can take to rectify the situation. And if it doesn't happen, take the other job and let the doctor know why.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are having a "debate," and I hope you can help. When dining out in a restaurant, is it proper etiquette to ask for a taste from another person's plate?

WHAT'S MINE IS MINE IN MAINE

DEAR W.M.I.M.: I have never heard of any rule of etiquette that forbids asking for a bite. If you're afraid your husband will take too much, place a small portion on your bread plate and pass it to him.

~~Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne~~ Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TONIGHT? WHY CAN'T HOBBES AND I COME? WHY DO WE HAVE TO HAVE A BABY SITTER?
WE'RE GOING TO DINNER AND A MOVIE JUST TO HAVE SOME TIME TO OURSELVES, OK?
BUT WE COULD COME! HOBBES PROMISES NOT TO KILL ANYONE! WE'D BE GOOD! REALLY! WHY WON'T YOU LET US COME? WHY DON'T YOU WANT US AROUND?
IS THE MOVIE DIRTY? WHAT'S THE PROBLEM??
GOSH, A DINNER WITH REAL PAUSES IN THE CONVERSATION! CAN YOU IMAGINE?
WATTERSON 2/11

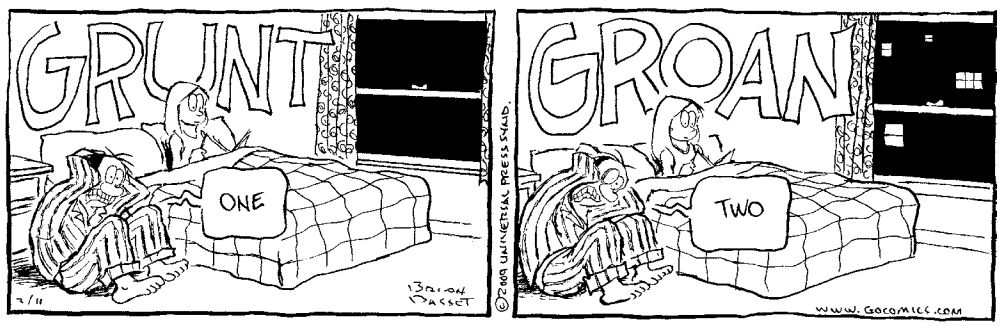
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

EVERY TIME WE COME HERE, WE HAVE YOU AS A WAITER, ARMANDO. HOW IS THAT?
JIM DAVIS 2-11
WHAT A SHORT STRAW
I AM, AS YOU SAY, CURSED
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.

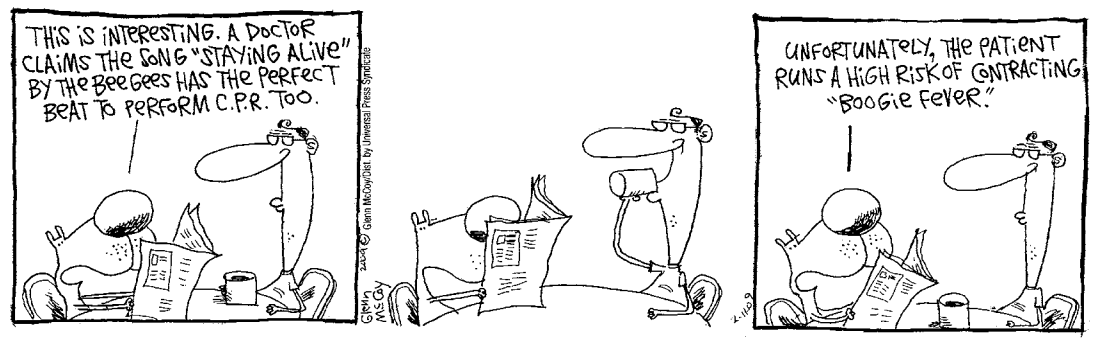
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THIS IS INTERESTING. A DOCTOR CLAIMS THE SONG "STAYING ALIVE" BY THE BEE GEES HAS THE PERFECT BEAT TO PERFORM C.P.R. TOO.
UNFORTUNATELY, THE PATIENT RUNS A HIGH RISK OF CONTRACTING "BOOGIE FEVER."
GLENN McCOY

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

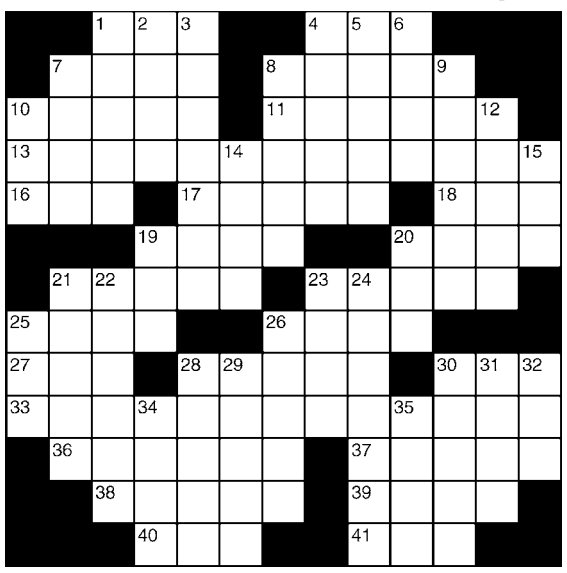
ACROSS
1 Vacationing
4 Bribe
7 Duel tool
8 Stimulant
10 Gave it a whack
11 Light brown fur
13 Department store employee
16 "A Chorus Line" song
17 Circular
18 Anger
19 Exceptional
20 Oklahoma city
21 Invigorating
23 Spree
25 Appear
26 Color quality
27 Branch
28 Streetcars' kin
30 High-arc shot
33 Storm-predicting agency
36 In layers
37 Shabby
38 Indigent
39 Hollywood clashers
40 Susan of "L.A. Law"
41 Lair

DOWN
1 Put one's two cents in
2 Nourish
3 Men's hats
4 Reject with disdain
5 Made up one's mind
6 Pron. type
7 "— go bragh!"
8 Excessive
9 On the way up
10 Even number
12 Eagle's home
14 Drudgery
15 Roulette bet
19 Edge
20 Compass dir.
21 Jaunty chapeau
22 Go nowhere
23 Zero-star movie
24 Protected, in a way
25 Witnessed
26 Late
28 "... — Men in a Tub"
29 High-pitched
30 Spill the beans
31 Dinner for Dobbin
32 Purchase
34 Prepared to drive (with "up")
35 Anger

Solution time: 21 mins.

M	E	S	S	■	F	O	B	■	W	A	N	D
A	X	L	E	■	A	P	R	■	A	L	E	E
U	P	O	N	■	T	E	A	R	D	O	W	N
L	O	W	D	O	W	N	■	I	D	E	S	T
■	■	■	E	R	A	■	F	O	E	■	■	■
S	T	A	R	R	■	P	U	T	D	O	W	N
O	O	P	■	■	O	A	R	■	■	L	E	O
L	E	T	D	O	W	N	■	R	I	D	E	R
■	■	■	A	W	L	■	B	U	N	■	■	■
S	H	I	R	E	■	S	U	N	D	O	W	N
L	O	C	K	D	O	W	N	■	E	R	I	E
O	B	O	E	■	V	I	N	■	E	E	L	S
B	O	N	N	■	A	M	Y	■	D	O	L	T

Yesterday's answer 2-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Rowland, 28; Mike Shinoda, 32; Jennifer Aniston, 40; Sheryl Crow, 47

Happy Birthday: There is so much hidden that must be brought out into the open before you can move on. You have the power, the dedication and the heart and soul to give your all. Now is the time to resolve something you've needed to address for a long, long time. Your numbers are 8, 19, 23, 26, 35, 38, 41

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): An innovative approach to life and friendships will spice things up. Set the pace and your own rules and you will find the happiness you are searching for. Stand up for what you want and speak your mind. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It may seem as if everyone is working against you but, as long as you keep moving forward, you will accomplish what you need to do. Avoid meddling and meddlers and everything else will fall into place. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Nothing is likely to go according to plan but you will act fast and efficiently. Emotions will get you into trouble, so avoid letting people set you off. Act on facts, not personal feelings. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): The tables are turning and it's time for you to make some adjustments to your living arrangements. Once you feel comfortable with the way things operate, you will ease your stress and eliminate the possibility of letting things spin out of control. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take it easy, relax and stay calm. Aggressive behavior will lead to trouble or cause someone to play with your emotions. Overdoing it in any manner will come back to haunt you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Talk to people who can help and encourage you. A little extra work will pay off but don't jeopardize your health by overdoing it. A change of plans will result in a better connection with someone in whom you are interested. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Not everything is as it appears. Someone is working against you, so take extra precautions. Insincere gestures of friendliness or someone offering you too good a deal should be handled with care. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stop standing still waiting for someone else to pick up the slack or show you the way. You have to be in the lead if you want to be successful. Your willingness to take a chance or to try something new or different will set you apart. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Weigh the pros and cons before you make a life-altering decision. Chances are good that the dynamics of whatever is going on around you are changing too rapidly to make a good assessment. You are better off doing as directed and playing it safe. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your wits about you. With so much to juggle, you must keep a clear head and be ready to take action immediately. Stay in the loop at all times. Greater profits and advancement can be yours. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't give in to what others want if it isn't what you want. Be honest about your intentions. Don't let confusion cause you to stand still when the answer is to simply follow your heart. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Avoid putting too many demands on others. You will get the most for your money if you do the work yourself without being dependent on anyone. You can sort through any problems you have by taking a serious look at how they started. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, dedicated and a reformer. You are serious, compassionate and relentless in your search for justice and beneficial change. You are a great friend, companion and leader.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
			8		4			
		1				5		
		5	4	1	8	7		
			2		9			
		6				9		
	4						2	
6								9
	9	7	1	5	6	8	3	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	7	4	5	2	6	1	9	8
5	8	9	4	1	3	7	6	2
2	1	6	7	8	9	4	5	3
1	5	3	6	9	2	8	7	4
8	6	7	3	4	5	9	2	1
4	9	2	1	7	8	6	3	5
6	4	1	2	5	7	3	8	9
9	3	5	8	6	4	2	1	7
7	2	8	9	3	1	5	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/10

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OUTDOOR MAKEOVERS **Solution: 6 letters**

E	S	G	S	B	U	T	T	O	H	B	D	E	C	K
I	T	H	N	N	D	L	L	A	F	R	E	T	A	W
C	N	E	R	I	A	E	A	C	A	B	A	N	A	S
O	A	S	R	U	R	L	H	Y	U	D	G	N	(P)	G
N	L	N	T	C	B	P	P	S	E	N	E	(A)	P	S
T	P	S	O	A	N	S	S	W	I	D	(V)	L	S	S
R	F	T	G	P	L	O	A	K	R	(E)	A	A	N	O
A	O	H	A	T	Y	L	C	A	R	Y	R	G	I	S
C	U	G	T	R	K	O	G	U	H	G	I	T	H	E
T	N	I	E	W	L	A	T	O	R	S	A	A	D	S
O	T	L	A	R	Z	C	U	E	E	P	D	I	E	E
R	A	Y	E	E	U	S	E	D	N	E	S	P	C	H
X	I	T	B	R	E	N	O	V	A	T	I	O	N	S
E	N	O	T	S	G	A	L	F	U	S	S	O	E	U
I	S	S	R	O	B	R	A	O	D	N	A	L	F	B

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 2/11

Arbors, Asphalt, Bushes, Cabanas, Canopy, Concrete, Contractor, Deck, Designs, Fence, Flagstone, Fountains, Garden, Gate, Gazebo, Grass, Green, Hot Tub, Install, Interlocking, Land, Lights, Outside, Patio, Pave, Plans, Plants, Playhouse, Pool, Relax, Renovations, Shade, Shed, Shrubs, Spring, Steps, Structure, Tents, Walkway, Waterfall, Yard

Yesterday's Answer: Windhandel

Treasury 5 or 7 Send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Press Syndicate, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480 Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

House for rent or lease in As Lito, 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bathroom. For more info. pls. call 234-6695

• 3br, 1bath house • 2br, 2bath house. Nice view of Mangaha w/ swimming pool. Available in Capitol Hill. Call 322-5717

AUTOMOTIVE

For Sale 2004 Nissan Sentra, 4dr, auto. trans. Good condition. $5,900. Call Zheng @ 287-7676

WHATZIT Solution:
Try this for size

Make it a daily habit!
www.saipantribune.com

HELP WANTED

TUNA LONGLINE FISHERMAN

Must have: Sea time and verified high seas longline fishing experience • Working knowledge of vessel safety, operation and high seas of fishing industry. • Ability to spend up to 4 weeks at sea.

Locals, IRs and contract workers.
Apply at **USA Islands Seafood, Inc./Saipan USA Fisheries, Inc.** at Beach Road, Garapan

BUD'S BAR
Every Wednesday @ 9pm
Jerry & Elli Jaming Band
Every Friday @ 9pm
Sam Joyner & The Blues Band
Let's Jam

BUD'S BAR
Sweetheart Night. Sat 14 @7pm. All Ladies coming through the door will receive one free Rose & Champagne plus a raffle ticket to win many gift & cash prizes. Merchant marines will be on special–after every $5.00 spent you will receive another raffle to win more.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

THIS	SIGH
THIS	SIGH
THIS	SIGH
THIS	SIGH

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes
  - i. October 30, 2008

II. Public Comments[1]

III. Reports
- a. Chair
- b. Board Committees
  - i. CIA
  - ii. CIP
  - iii. FPA
  - iv. Special Education & Early Childhood
  - v. LIA
  - vi. School Reform
  - vii. Private Schools
  - viii. Non-Public School Representative
  - ix. Student Representative
- c. Commissioner of Education

IV. Old Business
- a. GTC Project (CDBG) Update
- b. CIP Projects Update

V. New Business
- a. FY 2010 Budget

VI. Executive Session[2]
- a. Legal Updates
- b. Personnel
- c. Other matters

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

IX. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

The University of Guam solicits applications to establish a list of eligibles for the following positions (Open and Promotional Examination—Subject to the Availability of Funds):

Position Title: **#027-09 CHEMIST III**

Location: Water & Environmental Research Institute

Contact the Human Resources Office for additional information regarding requirements, qualifications and application deadline, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday except weekends and holidays. The Government of Guam application form can be downloaded from the Human Resources Office website at http://www.uoghro.com. Call 671-735-2350/1.

The University of Guam is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider and complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For assistance, in these matters, please contact Ms. Elaine Faculo-Gogue, Institutional Compliance Officer at the EEO/ADA Office, Dorm II, Iya Hami Hall, Room 104, Tel. No. 671-735-2244; (TTY) or 671-735-2243.

/s/ JOHN V. ANGOCO
Chief Human Resources Officer

THIS AD IS PAID FOR BY UNIVERSITY FUNDS

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2007
Guard files sex harassment suit vs principal. PAGE 3
2 hurt in Puerto Rico vehicular crash. PAGE 5
There is still hope for nonimmigrant statu
joins Micronesia
OPINION METER
RELATED NEWS
235- NEWS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

A-Rod admits using banned drugs from 2001-2003

AP

In this video frame grab provided by ESPN, Alex Rodriguez is interviewed by ESPN's Peter Gammons on Monday, Feb. 9, 2009.

NEWYORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez admitted Monday to using banned drugs, the biggest name yet to acknowledge he couldn't resist the temptation to juice up during baseball's Steroids Era. The All-Star third baseman said in an interview with ESPN that he used steroids with the Texas Rangers for three years, from 2001-03, in an attempt to justify his status as the game's highest-paid player after signing a 10-year, $252 million contract.

"Back then it was a different culture," Rodriguez said. "It was very loose. I was young. I was stupid. I was naive, and I wanted to prove to everyone that, you know, I was worth, you know—and being one of the greatest players of all time."

He said he quit after 2003, his first of three AL MVP seasons, because "I've proved to myself and to everyone that I don't need any of that." He was traded to the New York Yankees before the 2004 season.

The admission came two days after *Sports Illustrated* reported on its Web site that Rodriguez was among 104 names on a list of players who tested positive for steroids in 2003, when testing was intended to determine the extent of steroid use in baseball. The results weren't subject to discipline and were supposed to remain anonymous.

Rodriguez said he alone was to blame but then accused one of the Sports Illustrated reporters who broke the story of collecting "nonsense."

"When I arrived in Texas in 2001, I felt an enormous amount of pressure. I felt like I had all the weight of the world on top of me and I needed to perform, and perform at a high level every day," Rodriguez said.

"And I did take a banned substance and, you know, for that I'm very sorry and deeply regretful. And although it was the culture back then and Major League Baseball overall was very - I just feel that - You know, I'm just sorry. I'm sorry for that time. I'm sorry to fans. I'm sorry for my fans in Texas. It wasn't until then that I ever thought about substance of any kind."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks said the admission caught him by surprise.

"I feel personally betrayed. I feel deceived by Alex," Hicks said in a conference call. "He assured me that he had far too much respect for his own body to ever do that to himself. ... I certainly don't believe that if he's now admitting that he started using when he came to the Texas Rangers, why should I believe that it didn't start before he came to the Texas Rangers?"

During those three seasons, Rodriguez averaged 161.7 games, 52 homers, 131.7 RBIs and a .615 slugging percentage. In the other 10 full seasons of his career, he averaged 149.2 games, 39.2 homers, 119 RBIs, and a .574 slugging percentage, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"This is three years I'm not proud of," Rodriguez said.

The 33-year-old Rodriguez ranks 12th on the career list with 553 homers, including 52, 57 and 47 in his three seasons with the Rangers. He is 209 behind Barry Bonds' record 762.

Now, though, he's on top of another—the highest-profile player to confess to doping. Yankee teammates Jason Giambi and Andy Pettitte and former MVPs Ken Caminiti and Jose Canseco admitted it earlier.

Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat who sits on the House committee that brought Roger Clemens, Mark McGwire and other baseball players to Capitol Hill in recent years, favored a congressional hearing with Rodriguez.

"It would be good perhaps for us to sit down and talk to him," Cummings said in a telephone interview. "I would think that he would want to cooperate with us so that the Congress would have the information it may need."

Rodriguez's admission was in stark contrast to the denials of Bonds and of Clemens, Rodriguez's Yankees teammate.

Bonds, a seven-time MVP, is scheduled for trial next month on charges that he lied when he told a federal grand jury in 2003 that he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Another federal grand jury is considering whether to indict seven-time AL Cy Young Award winner Clemens on charges he lied when he told a congressional committee last year that he never used steroids or human growth hormone.

SI.com reported Rodriguez tested positive for Primobolan and testosterone.

"It was such a loosey-goosey era. I'm guilty for a lot of things. I'm guilty for being negligent, naive, not asking all the right questions," Rodriguez said. "And to be quite honest, I don't know exactly what substance I was guilty of using."

Rather than hold a news conference, as Giambi and Pettitte did for their confessionals, Rodriguez chose the controlled setting of an interview with ESPN, one of Major League Baseball's television partners.

The interview left open many questions:

- Whom did Rodriguez obtain steroids from?
- How did he pay for them?
- Did anyone help him to obtain them?

Monday's ESPN interview directly contradicted a December 2007 interview with CBS's "60 Minutes," when Rodriguez said "No" when asked if he had ever used steroids, human growth hormone or any other performance-enhancing substance.

In his 2008 book, "Vindicated: Big Names, Big Liars, and The Battle to Save Baseball," Jose Canseco claimed he introduced Rodriguez to a steroids dealer. Canseco, who has admitted using steroids, subsequently said he had no knowledge of any drug use by Rodriguez.

"They are looking in the wrong places," Canseco said in a text message to The Associated Press. "This is a 25-year cover-up. The true criminals are Gene Orza, (union head) Donald Fehr and (commissioner) Bud (Selig). Investigate them, and you will have all the answers."

SI said that Orza, the union's chief operating officer, tipped off three players in September 2004 that they would be tested. Orza has repeatedly denied that he tipped off players, saying he merely reminded them late in the season that if they had not yet been tested, baseball's drug agreement required them to be tested by the end of the regular season.

Orza, who has been widely criticized by media since the SI report, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that he doesn't care what the media says.

"I know the facts," Orza wrote.

Rodriguez said Orza told him in August or September 2004 about the list of names that had been seized by federal investigators.

"He said there's a government list. There's 104 players in it. You might or might not have tested positive," Rodriguez said.

On Friday, Rodriguez is still expected to attend an event at the University of Miami, which is renaming its baseball field in his honor.

He gave $3.9 million to the school in 2003, the largest gift ever to the Hurricanes' baseball program and money that provided much of the resources needed for renovating the existing on-campus stadium. In return, the baseball complex will be called Mark Light Field at Alex Rodriguez Park.

Despite the scandal, the facility will continue to bear Rodriguez's name, a university official said Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitive nature.

Miami baseball players and coaches were not available for comment, spokesman Mark Pray said.

Feds make last plea to keep Bonds' steroids tests

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Federal prosecutors are again asking a judge to let them show a jury three drug test results they say show Barry Bonds used steroids.

The judge said last week she was inclined to throw out those results unless someone could directly testify to collecting the slugger's urine samples. The likeliest candidate to be able to do so is Bonds' former trainer, Greg Anderson. A lawyer for Anderson has said his client won't testify at Bonds' upcoming trial.

In a court filing Monday, prosecutors included snippets of Bonds' grand jury testimony saying Anderson collected the samples. It also included testimony from a former BALCO executive saying Anderson dropped off urine samples labeled with Bonds' name.

Bonds is charged with lying to a grand jury about alleged steroid use.

Tiger's wife gives birth to son—Charlie Axel

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

The uncertainty facing Tiger Woods at the start of the year is almost cleared up.

He is practicing at full strength with no restrictions, and playing golf at his home course in Florida. He became a father again when his wife gave birth to a boy on Sunday—Charlie Axel Woods.

The only thing left is when he returns to the PGA Tour.

The first possibility is the Accenture Match Play Championship, where he is the defending champion, which starts Feb. 25.

"I don't know what this affects," tournament director Wade Dunagan said Monday afternoon. "We're hopeful he'll make the Accenture Match Play Championship his first event back. The truth is, I don't know where we stand with that. It's one less obstacle, but he may want to stay home for another week now that the baby is born."

The CA Championship held its media day Monday across the country at Doral, where Woods is a three-time winner. That World Golf Championship starts two weeks after the Accenture, on March 12. Tournament director Eddie Carbone had answers to every question, except whether his All-Star field would include the biggest star in golf.

The tournament showed some of its public service announcements that will run in the Miami area, featuring the likes of Phil Mickelson, Sergio Garcia and Camilo Villegas. Woods was not in any of them.

For the moment, Woods has other priorities.

"Elin and I are thrilled to announce the birth of our son, Charlie Axel Woods," Woods wrote in a short statement on his Web site. "Both Charlie and Elin are doing great and we want to thank everyone for their sincere best wishes and kind thoughts. Sam is very excited to be a big sister and we feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful family."

Sam Alexis was born on the Monday after the 2007 U.S. Open, and Woods did not play for three weeks, even skipping a title defense the week before he returned at the Buick Open.

But he is not new to fatherhood any more. And even with a son, if Woods follows his own father's routine, it still will be another six months before he puts Charlie in a high chair to watch him swing a golf club.

"We look forward to introducing Charlie to you at the appropriate time," Woods wrote.

Woods likely won't be available to comment until he shows up at a tournament, so the significance of his son's name was not clear. His daughter's name—Sam—was the pet name that Earl Woods called a young Tiger.

Woods has great respect for Charlie Sifford, the first black to become a PGA Tour member; Sifford playfully refers to Woods as "my grandson." Axel is a Swedish name that means "father of peace," according to the Web site birthcare.com (his wife is Swedish).

76ers rout Suns for third straight win

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Thaddeus Young scored 25 points and Marreese Speights had a career-high 24 points to lift the Philadelphia 76ers to their third straight win, 108-91 over the Phoenix Suns on Monday night.

Andre Iguodala scored 22 points and Samuel Dalembert grabbed 11 rebounds to help the Sixers (26-24) move two games above .500 for the first time this season.

Amare Stoudemire shrugged off persistent trade rumors and scored 19 points for the Suns. Jason Richardson had 16 and Shaquille O'Neal grabbed 10 rebounds.

Speights led a charge in the second quarter that turned this one from a tight game into a fast 14-point lead for the Sixers.

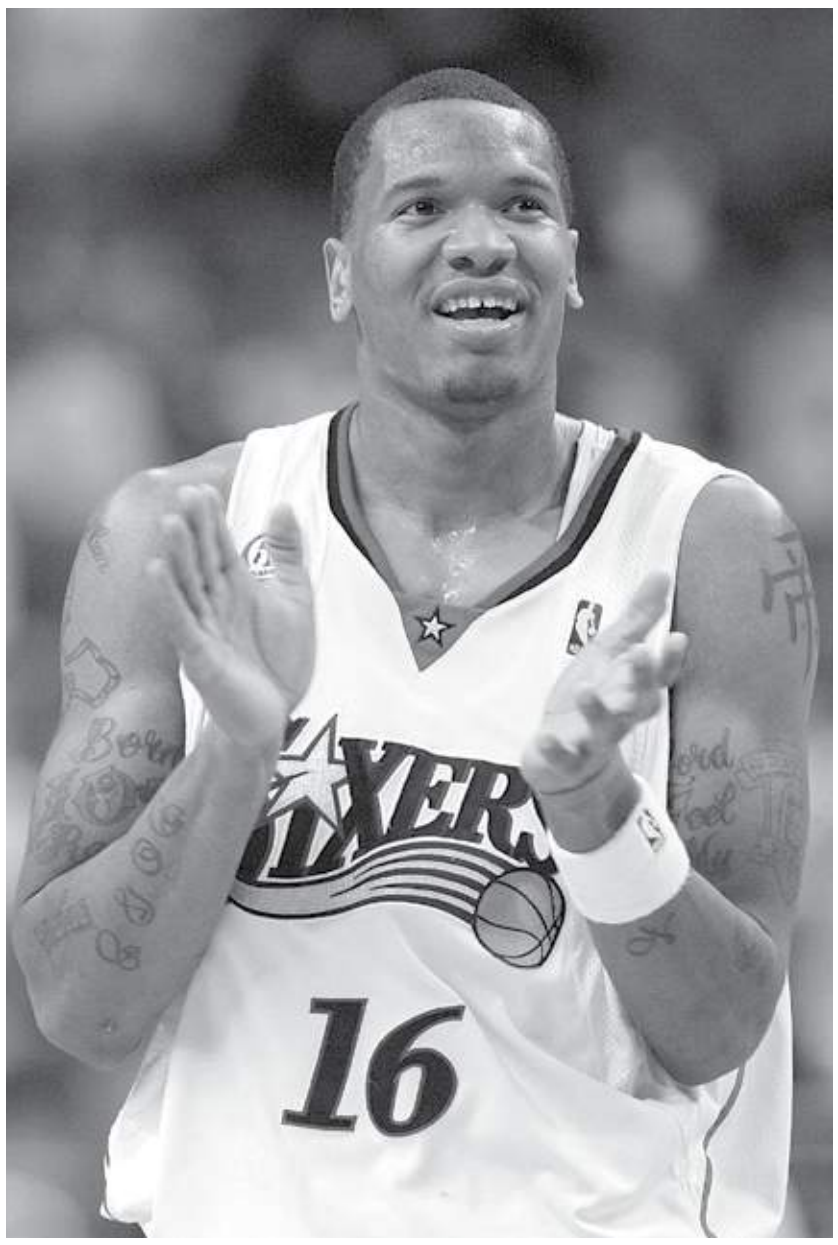
Speights fell only a point shy in the first half of matching his career of 17. He scored 12 straight points in one stretch and 16 of 18 to help the Sixers take a 55-44 lead at the break.

He piled up the points mostly on dunks, the highlight a one-hander down the baseline off a toss from Andre Miller. Speights has been the biggest benefactor of Elton Brand's absence—his scoring average in games without Brand is 10.2 points per game compared to 7.8 overall. Speights scored 15 in Philadelphia's last game against Miami and has given the Sixers every reason to believe they can gain ground in the Eastern Conference standings even without Brand.

Team president Ed Stefanski said last week that Speights, their first-round pick out of Florida, wasn't even in the preseason mix of players expected to make a meaningful contribution. He surely will be expected to make an impact if Philadelphia makes the postseason. Speights was 11-of-16 from the floor and grabbed seven rebounds.

His simple layup early in the fourth gave him a career-best 18 points and stretched Philadelphia's lead to 82-69. Then he showed off his mid-range game with a 16-footer that brought a roar from the crowd.

When Lou Williams hit a 3-pointer, the lead ballooned to 93-75. The Suns rested their starters not long after, with reserves playing the final 5 1/2 minutes.



AP

Philadelphia 76ers forward Marreese Speights claps his hands and smiles as the 76ers beat the Phoenix Suns 108-91 in an NBA basketball game Monday, Feb. 9, 2009, in Philadelphia.

Bobcats 94, Clippers 73

At Charlotte, N.C., Emeka Okafor had 19 points and 16 rebounds, Vladimir Radmanovic hit three fourth-quarter 3-pointers in his Charlotte debut, and the Bobcats pulled away from the road-weary Los Angeles Clippers to snap a five-game losing streak.

Boris Diaw and Raymond Felton added 15 points apiece for the injury-riddled Bobcats, who depended on Radmanovic two days after he was acquired from the Los Angeles Lakers.

Despite not having practiced with his new team, Radmanovic hit two long jumpers in a 15-2 run that broke open a close game. He added another 3 to put Charlotte ahead 88-70 with 4 minutes left.

Zach Randolph had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Eric Gordon scored 17 for the Clippers, who fizzled in the fourth quarter in the finale of a seven-game road trip.

Grizzlies 85, Hornets 80

At Memphis, Tenn., O.J. Mayo had 22 points and a career-high 16 rebounds for his first double-double, while Mike Conley scored 18 and handed out eight assists to lead the Grizzlies over the short-handed New Orleans Hornets.

Hakim Warrick had 15 points and a season-high 14 rebounds, while Marc Gasol added 10 points and 10 rebounds for Memphis, which has won two straight and four of its last five.

The Hornets shot 29.5 percent after the Grizzlies held Toronto to the same mark Saturday. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, it marked the first time in more than 49 years that a team has held consecutive opponents under 30 percent shooting from the field. The last time was Dec. 19-20, 1959, when the then-St. Louis Hawks held Philadelphia to 26.9 percent and Detroit to 29.9 the next night.

Peja Stojakovic scored 23 points to lead the Hornets, who were without their top three players in Chris Paul, Tyson Chandler and David West. Paul and Chandler were out with injuries, while West was suspended for the game after his flagrant foul against Minnesota's Mike Miller on Sunday.

Bucks 124, Rockets 112

At Milwaukee, Charlie Villanueva scored 25 points, grabbed eight rebounds and sparked a big second-half run as the Bucks snapped an eight-game losing streak against the Houston Rockets.

Ramon Sessions scored 26 points and had seven assists, Richard Jefferson added 25 points and reserve Charlie Bell had 21 for the Bucks, who are missing three starters to injury and trying to stay competitive in the Eastern Conference.

Houston had won three of the previous four, but gave up more than 104 points in its fifth straight road game. Aaron Brooks scored a career-high 23 points.

NBA BRIEFS

Patriots put franchise tag on QB Matt Cassel

BOSTON (AP)—The New England Patriots placed the franchise tag on Matt Cassel on Thursday. The move means the quarterback remains a free agent, but the Patriots can match any offer made by another team or allow him to sign with that team in exchange for two first-round draft picks. If and when he signs the one-year franchise tag designation, worth $14.65 million for 2009, he will be under contract to the Patriots, who could keep him or trade him. Cassel's stock soared last season after he took over for Tom Brady, who suffered a season-ending knee injury in the opening game. Cassel helped the Patriots to an 11-5 record, but they missed the playoffs. One factor in the Patriots' decision on whether to keep two highly paid quarterbacks is Brady's progress from knee surgery and the prospects for him being ready for the start of next season. "Matt has been a pleasure to coach his entire career and last season in particular, when his years of hard work and commitment resulted in a most impressive performance," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said in a statement. "We look forward to working with Matt again in 2009."

T-Wolves Jefferson out with torn ACL in right knee

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves star center Al Jefferson is out indefinitely with a torn ACL in his right knee. The team said that an MRI performed Monday morning discovered the extent of the damage done to the knee a night before when Jefferson landed awkwardly late in the game against New Orleans. A date for surgery on the anterior cruciate ligament has not been set. Jefferson is the team's leading scorer and rebounder at 23.1 points and 11 rebounds per game. "This is an unfortunate situation for Al and we wish him a quick recovery," said Timberwolves head coach Kevin McHale in a prepared statement. He continued, "Knowing Al, he will work hard in his rehab efforts to get back on the court as soon as possible. In the interim, I'm confident that the other players on our roster will step up and meet this challenge." The Timberwolves (17-33) host Toronto on Tuesday.

Cleveland's Pavlovic out with injured ankle

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Cavaliers starting guard Sasha Pavlovic could miss up to six weeks with a sprained right ankle, another injury setback for a team which had won all 23 of its home games until Sunday. Pavlovic sustained a high ankle sprain at the end of the first quarter Sunday in Cleveland's 101-91 home loss to the Los Angeles Lakers, with NBA's best record at 41-9. An MRI taken Monday revealed the extent of the injury. The Cavaliers estimated Pavlovic will be out for a minimum of four weeks and possibly six. The 6-foot-7 Pavlovic is averaging 4.9 points and 16 minutes per game for the Cavs. He was starting for injured guard Delonte West, who has been out since early January with a broken right wrist.

West to be suspended 1 game for flagrant foul

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Hornets All-Star David West was suspended for Monday night's game at Memphis because of a hard foul that resulted in his ejection against Minnesota on Sunday night. NBA executive vice president Stu Jackson announced the ruling late Monday afternoon. The Timberwolves' Mike Miller was driving to the hoop late in the second quarter when West chopped his right arm down over Miller's right shoulder from behind, catching Miller in the face with a forearm. Miller dropped to the floor and remained down for several seconds, but remained in the game with no apparent injury. After West's departure, the Hornets rallied for a 101-97 win despite also playing without All-Star Chris Paul (groin) and starting center Tyson Chandler (ankle).

NFL BRIEFS

Pacman officially released by Cowboys

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Troubled cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was released Monday by the Dallas Cowboys, making him a free agent. The Cowboys said last month they planned to release Jones, and Monday was the first day teams could make waiver requests. Jones was suspended for six games by the NFL after an alcohol-related scuffle in October with a team-provided bodyguard at a Dallas hotel. The cornerback came to Dallas after being suspended for the entire 2007 season following multiple off-field incidents while with the Tennessee Titans. The Cowboys acquired him in a trade during the draft in April, and commissioner Roger Goodell cleared him to play at the end of the preseason. Expected to give the Cowboys a boost on defense and special teams, Jones had 31 tackles and no interceptions in his nine games (six starts). He averaged only 4.5 yards on his 21 punt returns, with a long of 18 yards. Before coming to Dallas, Jones was arrested six times and involved in 12 instances requiring police intervention after Tennessee drafted him in the first round in 2005. The Cowboys traded for him anyway, despite the 2007 suspension.

Steelers don't know about Big Ben's rib injury

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers have no knowledge that Ben Roethlisberger played the Super Bowl with two broken ribs, as the quarterback told a Web site. According to SI.com, Roethlisberger said his fractured ribs did not show up on X-rays taken before he led the Steelers to a 27-23 win over Arizona on Feb. 1, but were revealed during an MRI test last week. "Luckily, in the game, I didn't take any big hits to make 'em hurt," Roethlisberger told SI.com. "But I knew all along there was something wrong ... It was just suck it up and play. Roethlisberger did not miss any practices before the game. "There's not a whole lot to say," Steelers spokesman Dave Lockett said Monday. "Ben was fine to go. He was cleared to play."

Former Falcons player Jamal Anderson released

ATLANTA (AP)—Former Atlanta Falcons running back Jamal Anderson has been released from jail following his arrest on drug charges. Anderson is charged with felony cocaine possession and misdemeanor marijuana possession. Fulton County Jail spokeswoman Tracy Flanagan says he was let out on $6,000 bond Sunday evening. The 36-year-old played eight seasons for the Falcons before leaving with a knee injury in 2001. He worked as an NFL analyst for ESPN this past season. Atlanta police say Anderson is accused of having powder cocaine and a marijuana cigarette in his possession at an Atlanta tavern. The Fulton County Superior Court clerk's office says charges have been dropped against 20-year-old Mark Daniel Hudson, who police say was with Anderson. A phone number for a lawyer listed for Anderson could not be immediately found.

SLLB moves opening of 2009 season to Feb. 15

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The start of the 2009 season of the Saipan Little League Baseball has been moved from Feb. 14 to Feb. 15.

SLLB president Mike Borja said they decided to change the opening date to give way to the Valentine's Day celebration.

"Instead on Saturday, we will kick off the league on Sunday and games will continue on Monday, which is a holiday," Borja said.

Feb. 16 is President's Day.

Borja added government officials had already confirmed attendance to the opening ceremony at 9am at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Borja

"The governor, House Speaker, Senate President, Saipan mayor, and CNMI District Administrator James Ada are attending the opening day," Borja said.

Mandatory meeting tonight

Borja is calling all team managers and coaches to attend a meeting tonight at 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Borja said copies of the games schedule will be distributed at the meeting and final details about the opening will be discussed, too.

This season's SLLB will have 32 teams.

The Majors, which will be played at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield, will feature 15 squads.

The list includes the San Vicente Athletics, As Matuis Twins, Bank of Saipan Red Sox, DPS Dare, Dragons, Hustlers, IT&E Dolphins, Jets, Kagman Little Lions, the Tanapag Little Falcons, McDonald's, Ol'Aces, Shell Suns, Survivors, and the Tanapag Braves.

Major's three-time champions Patriots are now in the Junior League and will battle the Fielders, Kagman Lion Hearts, Ol'Aces, San Roque D-9ers, and the Red Sox.

The Senior League has five teams in the Fielders, Jets, Lion King, Ol'Aces, and the D-9ers.

The Big League will have six teams in the D-9ers, Fielders, Hustlers, Ol'Aces, Falcons, and the Aztecs.

For more information on SLLB, contact Borja at 322-0340 or 285-1980.

CNMI

From Page 28

victory in a row after outracing the Runnin' Rebels, 83-57. In the first game, Docomo notched its second straight win after whipping Quichocho Law Office, 100-86.

With gunner Jericho Cruz on Tinian Monday night playing for another league, it was expected that the CNMI Nationals would struggle offensively against the Runnin' Rebels.

But Rufino Aguon's wards did exactly the opposite, as they had an easier time against the Runnin' Rebels with Pete Iguel making his usual double figures contribution on offense firing 19 points.

The battle between the two youngest teams in the league turned into a sprint race, as both camps tried to push the tempo of the game.

But the Runnin' Rebels lost their footing when the CNMI Nationals began putting up backcourt pressured defense in the second half.

The Nationals' tight defense limited the Runnin' Rebels to five points and only one field goal in the first eight and a half minutes of the third period turning the former's 45-30 halftime lead to a 30-point advantage, 65-35.

The Nationals entered the fourth period with a comfortable 70-43 lead and preserved the win, as the Runnin' Rebels outscored them by only a point in the payoff canto, 14-13.

The Runnin' Rebels output is the lowest so far this season, as they had only five players making it to the scoreboard.

In the first game, Docomo missed the services of Kelvin Fitial and Ryan Sanciangco, who also played in a league on Tinian Monday night, but still won easily against Quichocho Law Office.

Christopher Paul stepped up in absence of Docomo's two scorers drilling a double-double with his 24 points and 20 rebounds. Docomo, which had a 0-2 start in the league before gaining back-to-back wins, also drew 20-plus point from siblings Joe and James Villacrusis, who contributed 24 and 20 markers, respectively.

Mark Wallace, who was absent in Docomo's win over IT&E last week, returned to action Monday night and added 19 points, eight rebounds, and five assists.

Bonbon Cadagat had 30 points for Quichocho Law Office, which took a 20-17 lead at the end of the first period, but lost control of the game when it scored only nine points in the second quarter.

Quichocho Law Office never recovered from there and absorbed its second consecutive loss after winning its debut over the Runnin' Rebels, 87-70.

First Game

Docomo 100 – Paul 24, Jo. Villacrusis 24, Ja. Villacrusis 20, Wallace 19, Mendez 7, Palacios 6.

Quichocho Law Office 86 – Cadagat 30, Lerio 19, Itaas 11, Capalad 10, Demapan 10, Moises 2, Barbo 2, Doronilla 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-20, 44-29, 65-51, 100-86.

Second Game

CNMI Nationals 83 – Iguel 22, Tarkong 12, Camacho 9, Rabauliman 8, Chariton 7, Johnson 7, Moses 7, White 6, Tumaquip 5.

Runnin' Rebels 57 – Iguel 12, Coldeen 11, Norita 9, L. Rangamar 3, Lisua 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-15, 45-30, 70-43, 83-57.

WORLD

From Page 28

fell short.

Tinian outscored World Resort in the fourth, 26-18, but the latter preserved the win after getting crucial baskets from Banjo Basilla and Wowie Abuel, who drilled eight and four points in the payoff period.

Basila top-scored for World Resort with 19, while Abuel finished with 14. Kae Bernardo and Dennis Vinas were the two other double figure scorers for World Resort making 17 and 11 points, respectively.

Noel Sabordo paced Tinian with 17 points.

In other results, Hyatt Regency Saipan and Aqua Resort Club posted double-digit winning margins over separate foes.

Hyatt drew 30-plus points from Jericho Cruz and Cris Arreza to beat Pacific Islands Club, 107-94.

Cruz exploded for 36 points, while Arreza nailed 35.

Hyatt was ahead by only five points, 73-68, at the end of the third quarter, when Arreza and Cruz sparked the team's breakaway in the fourth canto.

Arreza drilled 18 points in the fourth, while Cruz made 10, as the duo outgunned PIC's 1-2 punch of Darwin Barbo and Ryan Sanciangco. Barbo had 12 markers in the fourth, while Sanciangco added eight of his 36 big points in the final period.

In the third game, Aqua Resort Club outlasted Asia Pacific Hotel, Inc., 85-73.

After keeping pace with Aqua in the first half, fatigue finally caught up with APHI in the last 20 minutes of the game allowing Aqua to record an easy win.

APHI was behind by only nine at halftime, 38-47, when Aqua began pulling away in the third period behind Jun Estolas and Kelvin Fitial and took a 73-60 advantage, entering the fourth quarter.

It was cruise control for Aqua from then on.

Meanwhile, league organizers thanked the general managers of the participating hotels for allowing their players to go to Tinian.

The list includes Saipan Grand Hotel's Ed Cho, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's B.K. Park, PIC's Kieran Daly, Aqua's Hiro Sugie, Hyatt's Nick Nishikawa, and Tinian's Tom Liu.

First Game

World Resort 72 – Basila 19, Bernardo 17, Abuel 14, Vinas 11, Caruana 5, Madriano 2, Scinieder 2, Wabinga 2.

TDHC 68 – Sabordo 17, Fernandez 13, Ri. Reyes 9, Manalo 8, Ramirez 6, Castillo 4, Evangelista 4, Advincula 2, Flores 2, R.J. Reyes 2, Espiritu 1.

Scoring by quarters: 22-13, 38-27, 54-42, 72-68.

Second Game

Hyatt 107 – Cruz 36, Arreza 35, Mendoza 14, Aquino 11, Magno 8, Umali 2, Libuw 2.

PIC 94 – Sanciangco 36, Barbo 29, Kaipat 15, Abuy 6, Tolentino 3, Tudela 3, Babauta 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-21, 43-49, 73-68, 107-94.

Third Game

ARC 85 – Estolas 29, Fitial 13, Johanes 13, Gapor 8, Acosto 5, Aquino 5, Ruluked 5, Torres 4, Sablan 2, Achas 1.

APHI 73 – Esdrelon 21, Palero 18, Opone 10, Usi 10, Jinang 6, Macoto 4, Manglona 4.

Scoring by quarters: 22-18, 47-38, 73-60, 85-73.

COACH

From Page 28

ments this season.

"We are very excited about the results of the virtual meet, as these mean we can send many swimmers to Guam this year" Hiro said.

SSC official Lisa Kimball said the virtual meet results will not be out until next week, as they are still waiting for results from off-island participants.

Meanwhile, coach Kimura is reminding interested participants to register for the series of swim lessons that Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and American Red Cross, CNMI Chapter will be conducting starting this weekend.

The first sessions of the swim lesson is set for Feb. 14. The next four will be held on Feb. 21, Feb. 28, March 14, and March 21 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Registration will be held on Feb. 14 from 9:30am to 10am. Sessions will run from 10am to 11am.

Entrance fee is $30 per participant. For families, the second and succeeding members will pay only $25 each.

For more information or to register, contact Yuko Kimura at tsunamisaipan@yahoo.co.jp or call at 287-7842.

KABIRIEL

From Page 28

15th in swim (0:07:44), fourth in bike (0:23:16), and fourth in the run (0:10:44).

Josh Gabaldon was sixth overall with 0:43.20—11th in the swim (0:07:26), seventh in the bike (0:25:24), and third in the run (0:10:30).

The first woman to arrive at the finish line after three stages was seventh overall finisher Kanae Quinn, who clocked in at 0:44:09. She came in seventh in the swim (0:06:36), sixth in the bike (0:25:22), and 11th in the run (0:12:11).

Behind her was first-time competitor Rachel Rounds, who submitted an accumulated time of 0:44:15—fourth in the swim (0:05:54), 11th in the bike (0:26:49), and sixth in the run (0:11:32).

Cooper Graf topped the swim with a time of 0:04:50 but slowed down in the bike at 17th (0:32:16), and in the run at 14th (0:12:42) to place 13th overall.

In the long course, Tenorio submitted an accumulated time of one hour, 18 minutes, and 14 seconds after three stages—sixth in the swim (0:14:14), first in the bike (0:43:12) and third in the run (0:20:48).

Fred Camacho had an accumulated time 1:22:18 for second place—fourth in the swim (0:13:23), third in the bike (0:48:19), and second in the run (0:20:36).

Josh Berger was third overall at 1:23:02—third in the swim (0:13:18), second in the bike (0:47:43), and fourth in the run (0:22:01).

Shogo Ando came first in the run with 0:20:28, but was slower in the swim after coming in at fifth with a time of 0:13:26. He also finished fifth in the bike (0:51:35) to settle for fourth place overall with a time of 1:25:29.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	42	11	.792	_
Philadelphia	26	24	.520	14 1/2
New Jersey	24	28	.462	17 1/2
New York	21	29	.420	19 1/2
Toronto	19	34	.358	23

Central Division

Cleveland	39	10	.796	_
Detroit	27	22	.551	12.
Milwaukee	25	29	.463	16 1/2
Chicago	22	29	.431	18
Indiana	20	32	.385	20 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	38	12	.760	_
Atlanta	29	21	.580	9
Miami	27	23	.540	11
Charlotte	20	31	.392	18 1/2
Washington	11	40	.216	27 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	34	15	.694	
New Orleans	30	19	.612	4
Dallas	30	20	.600	4 1/2
Houston	31	21	.596	4 1/2
Memphis	15	36	.294	20

Northwest Division

Denver	34	17	.667	_
Portland	31	19	.620	2 1/2
Utah	29	23	.558	5 1/2
Minnesota	17	33	.340	16 1/2
Oklahoma City	13	38	.255	21

Pacific Division

LA Lakers	41	9	.820	
Phoenix	28	22	.560	13
Golden State	17	35	.327	25
LA Clippers	12	40	.231	30
Sacramento	11	41	.212	31

Yesterday's Games
Charlotte 94, LA Clippers 73
Memphis 85, New Orleans 80
Philadelphia 108, Phoenix 91
Milwaukee 124, Houston 112

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Wade, Mia.	50	512	346	1413	28.3
James, Clev.	49	484	349	1382	28.2
Bryant, LAL	50	495	308	1367	27.3
Nowitzki, Dall.	49	462	297	1263	25.8
Granger, Ind.	48	402	296	1228	25.6
Durant, OKC.	50	457	295	1277	25.5
Jefferson, Minn.	50	485	186	1156	23.1
Bosh, Tor.	51	401	349	1160	22.7
Roy, Port.	46	367	251	1032	22.4
Harris, N.J.	46	308	345	1002	21.8
Paul, N.O.	45	326	279	968	21.5
Johnson, Atl.	48	380	175	1029	21.4
Jamison, Wash.	51	415	197	1093	21.4
Stoudemire, Phoe.	49	364	292	1023	20.9
Carter, N.J.	51	365	235	1059	20.8
Duncan, S.A.	48	387	218	992	20.7
Howard, Orl.	48	344	302	990	20.6
Butler, Wash.	46	332	224	936	20.3
Gordon, Chi.	51	356	198	1025	20.1
Yao, Hou.	48	345	270	960	20.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Nene, Den.	282	463	.609
O'Neal, Phoe.	277	474	.584
Okafor, Char.	278	477	.583
Biedrins, G.S.	268	472	.568
Lee, N.Y.	326	576	.566
Howard, Orl.	344	610	.564
Gasol, LAL	337	602	.560
Bynum, LAL	254	455	.558
Yao, Hou.	345	626	.551
Millsap, Utah	270	491	.550

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, Orl.	48	211	464	675	14.1
Camby, LAC	42	131	406	537	12.8
Lee, N.Y.	50	156	434	590	11.8
Biedrins, G.S.	50	199	389	588	11.8
Murphy, Ind.	47	84	451	535	11.4
Jefferson, Minn.	50	172	376	548	11.0
Okafor, Char.	50	186	344	530	10.6
Duncan, S.A.	48	128	375	503	10.5
Bosh, Tor.	51	133	353	486	9.5
Yao, Hou.	48	132	319	451	9.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, N.O.	45	491	10.9
Williams, Utah	38	380	10.0
Nash, Phoe.	45	441	9.8
Calderon, Tor.	40	337	8.4
Kidd, Dall.	50	416	8.3
Rondo, Bos.	53	440	8.3
Duhon, N.Y.	50	399	8.0
B. Davis, LAC	37	289	7.8
James, Clev.	49	349	7.1
Wade, Mia.	50	356	7.1

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER CAGING STANDINGS

CNMI Nationals	3	0
IT& E	3	1
Ol'Aces	2	1
Docomo	2	2
Quichocho Law Office	1	2
Runnin' Rebels	1	4
Diamond Auto Fixers	0	2

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

DCCA	13	0
Freedom Air	9	2
CPA	9	2
Joeten Motor Jets	9	3
Beach Boys	9	3
Legislature	9	5
No Zone	9	4
Docomo	9	4
P&S	6	5
DLNR	6	7
POI	5	6
CRM/DEQ	5	6
CHC	4	8
PSS	4	8
CUC	3	9
Law & Order	3	9
PIC	2	8
Customs	2	8
Mayor's	2	10
Hopwood	0	11

Women's Division

NMC	8	1
Finance	4	4
DCCA	4	5
CUC	4	4
CHC	1	7

2009 Crime Stoppers Slow-pitch Softball Tournament

PHOTOS By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela throws the ceremonial pitch to kick off the 2009 Crime Stoppers Slow-pitch Softball Tournament last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield. Looking on are Crime Stoppers board of directors Robert "Woody" Woodruff, James Matsumoto of Wells Fargo, and Crime Stoppers president Jim Arenovski.

Rueben Olkeriil pitches for Pacific Islands Club.

IT&E's pitcher Cal Norita on the mound.

Wells Fargo's Joey Dela Cruz nears home plate in their game against IT&E.

Well's Fargo's Dave Camacho is safe at third base against IT&E's Ton Norita at the bottom of third.

Well's Fargo's Roy Celis eyes the softball in the seventh inning against Team Becks, which won in their semifinal game.

Team Becks' Manny Sablan tags a runner on third base at the bottom of fourth inning during their game against eventual champion The Set.

Roy Celis receives the trophy for third placer and dethroned three-time defending champion Wells Fargo, which was ousted in the semifinals by eventual runner-up Becks.

Members of runner-up Team Becks receive their trophy and $200 cash prize from tournament sponsors and organizers.

This year's Crime Stoppers Slow-pitch Softball Tournament champions Team The Set/Na Para are joined by organizers and board of directors of the CNMI Crime Stoppers during the awards ceremony last Sunday.

A-Rod admits using banned drugs from 2001-2003

Alex Rodriguez admitted Monday to using banned drugs, the biggest name yet to acknowledge he couldn't resist the temptation to juice up during baseball's Steroids Era.

24

Saipan Tribune
Sports

SLLB moves opening of 2009 season to Feb. 15

SLLB president Mike Borja said they decided to change the opening date to give way to the Valentine's Day celebration.

26

Kabiriel runs off with first Enticer

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel reasserted his mastery in the run portion of last Saturday's first Enticer Race in Marpi.

The event was the first of a series of races organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation serving as tune-up for the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon in April.

There were a total of 39 participants, including veteran Lewie Tenorio, who submitted the fastest time among seven other finishers in the long course, while Kabiriel was among the 29 runners in the main event, which was the shorter distance—500 meters in the swim, six miles in the bike, and two miles in the run. Three other runners joined as a team.

Kabiriel, who likes to call himself "The Roadrunner Bunny," finished third in the swim from Paupau Beach with a time of five minutes, 49 seconds, fifth in the bike from Paupau to Banzai Cliff and back (0:23:46), and first in the run from Paupau to Marianas Resort and Spa (0:09:34).

In all, Kabiriel checked in with the fastest combined time of 0:39:09.

Butch Sublemente submitted a total of 0:39:19 after coming in only 14th in the swim (0:07.36), but picked it up in the bike and run portions by placing second on both with times of 0:21.31 and 0:10:12, respectively.

Florian Braig was third overall with a total time of 0:39:47 by placing 13th in the swim (0:07:30), and crossing the finish line in the bike portion with the fastest time (0:20:50). He went down to fifth in the run leg (0:11:27).

Russ Quinn was fourth overall with 0:41:26 by settling for sixth in the swim (0:06:21), third in the bike (0:23:09), and seventh in the run (0:11:56).

Mat Mancao was fifth (0:41:44)—

See KABIRIEL on Page 26

Jack Kabiriel starts the run portion of the Enticer at Paupau Beach.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Coach Kimura upbeat wards broke records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan coach Hiro Kimura is positive his swimmers shattered several records during Saturday's SSC Heptathlon Virtual Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

"We are still waiting for official results from Saipan Swim Club. But based on our team timer, there were between six to eight CNMI records broken in the meet by Tsunami Saipan swimmers," Kimura said.

Tsunami Saipan fielded 22 swimmers in the weekend meet. The list included Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Kai Staal, Shin and Kensuke Kimura, Kaisei, Kosei, and Ryosei Toda, Marystar, Ashley, and Salofi Welch, Kaito and Hiroto Yanai, Angel Marie Tan, Thea Minor, Angel De Jesus, Arthur Sondheim, Dylan Ackerman, Quintin Ramsey, Kentaro Kitagawa, and Moena Takagi.

Kaisei, Hiroto, and Graf had the most numbers of events in the virtual meet with seven apiece, while Ryosei, Kaito, Takumi, Kosei, Kensuke, Salofi, Ashley, Shin, and Ramsey had six each. Wong, Marystar, Tan, Ackerman, and De Jesus joined five events each, Minor and Sondheim competed in four events apiece, while Takagi and Kitagawa participated in three events each.

"I'm expecting Rezne, Kai, and Kensuke had broken some CNMI records," Hiro said.

"Tsunami young swimmers were equally excellent. Many swimmers got BB or A time based on the U.S. time standard. BB is the qualifying time for the Guam Championships in May," the Tsunami Saipan coach said.

Kimura added that with Tsunami Saipan's young swimmers impressive times, they will be able to bring many swimmers to Guam tourna-

See COACH on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Thea Minor competes in the 50m freestyle race during the SSC Heptathlon Virtual Swim Meet Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

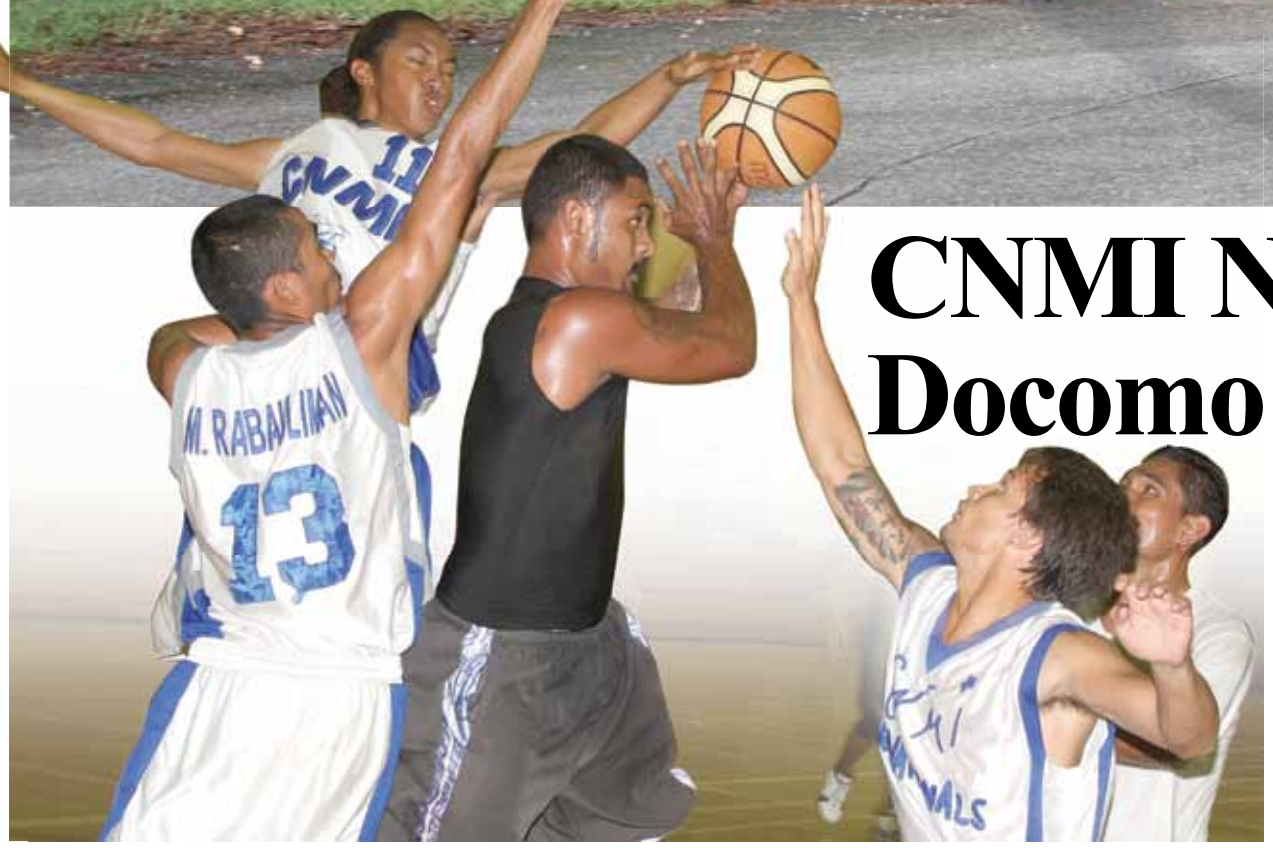
CNMI Nationals, Docomo on a roll

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Nationals kept their winning run, while Docomo is also on a streak following their lopsided wins over separate foes in the 2008-2009 BANMI-Budweiser Basketball League Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Nationals cruised to their third

See CNMI on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Four CNMI Junior Nationals players gang up on the Runnin' Rebels' Syl Teregeyo during the second quarter action of their game in the Budweiser caging Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

World Resort slips past Tinian, easy victories for Hyatt, Aqua

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2009 Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League kicked off Monday night at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium with three teams opening their campaign in the inaugural caging on a winning note.

Saipan World Resort posted the closest win in the triple-threat opener outlasting host Club TDHC, 72-68.

World Resort led by 12 at the end of the third period, 54-42, before Tinian rallied in the fourth quarter, but

See WORLD on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participating teams in the 2009 Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League pose for a group photo in front of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Monday during the opening of the competition.